

We are all
part of the continuing story
of this place,

Students, faculty, alumnae,

staff, administration,

directors, friends—

all of us share in the joy and

responsibility of seeing to it

that this place

continues serving women

with excellence, expertise,

and enthusiasm.

—Dr. M. Elizabeth ("Lee") Tidball
Professor Emerita of Physiology,
The George Washington University Medical Center
Member Sweet Briar Board of Directors 1978-1981
Founders' Day Address, October 3, 1990

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Sweet Briar Alumnae Magazine Policy

One of the objectives of the magazine is to present interesting, thought-provoking material. Publication of material does not indicate endorsement of the author's viewpoint by the magazine, the Alumnae Association, or Sweet Briar College. The Sweet Briar Alumnae Magazine reserves the right to edit and, when necessary, revise all material that it accepts for publication.

Contact us any time!

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Sweet Briar Celebrates its Centennial!

When President Muhlenfeld first addressed the Centennial Commission in October, 1999 she marked Sweet Briar's Centennial as an opportunity to "...revel in all aspects of the College's history...highlight new institutional initiatives...hold a Celebration Gala and offer opportunities for local celebrations in club areas...and also to introduce events throughout the year 2001 which have intellectual heft." Thanks to the efforts and guidance of the Centennial Commission and the on-campus Steering Committee, Sweet Briar's yearlong celebration of this important milestone in the life of the College promises all of these things and more.

January launched our Centennial Year with the 2001 Winter Forums, *Civic Renewal in the United States: Americans' Participation (or Lack Thereof) in Public Life*, which explored the issue of renewing civic culture. As always, this lecture series was enlightening, this year featuring internationally-renowned scholars who have focused their research on civic participation and its impact on civil society. They examined modern forms of public engagement and how such activity might transform the American polity as we know it. The lectures also included discussions of how citizens can contribute to renewing civic culture at the community level and beyond. Theda Skocpol,

Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, and director of the Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University, addressed *Civic Engagement in American Democracy: From Membership to Advocacy—and Beyond* on January 24; Melinda Baskin Hudson, senior vice president of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, General Colin Powell's volunteer program, spoke on *Civic Engagement and "America's Promise"* on January 31. Morris Fiorina, one of a handful of best-known scholars on the topic of civic renewal, professor of political science and a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, closed the series with *Participation and Representation in America: Old Theories Collide with New Realities*.

In early **February**, invitations to the April Gala were mailed, along with information and a full schedule of Gala events. **April 21-22** are the dates for the Centennial Celebration Gala. Plan to be here! Sally Ride, "America's First Woman in Space," joins us as our keynote speaker that Saturday afternoon, followed by the special Centennial Awards Ceremony honoring individuals "who have had a significant impact on Sweet Briar College and/or the Sweet Briar community." The celebration day concludes with a festive Evening Gala, com-

plete with music, dining, dancing, and even fireworks! On Sunday morning, a Centennial Chapel Service will be held.

During **May**, the beauty of Spring at Sweet Briar brings Commencement and Reunion—both events even more special than usual because of the Centennial flair. Preparations already are underway to welcome record numbers of alumnae and friends to campus to enjoy these happy times—and perhaps to take home some of the unique Centennial memorabilia items produced to recognize Sweet Briar's 100th Birthday—for instance, a Centennial Logo shirt; a commemorative clock; a brand-new 30-minute Centennial Video.

June: True to the pursuit of lifelong learning, June inaugurates the exciting new summer Alumnae College program at Sweet Briar. Two weeklong learning programs will be hosted by some of Sweet Briar's most dynamic and inspiring professors. Jonathan Green, chairman of our Music Department will lead *Everything Old is New Again: Rebirth in Renaissance Italy* June 10-15. David Orvos, chairman of Sweet Briar's new Environmental Studies Department and Linda Fink, chairman of our Biology Department, will co-chair the second Alumnae College, *An Environmental Report Card—How Do We Score?* June 24-29. Two of our popular

Alumnae College travel adventures will be offered later in conjunction with these programs.

Centennial doesn't slow down there! **September** features a full lineup of events during the Fall Centennial Alumnae Council Weekend, September 20-22. Thursday evening heralds the opening of a special exhibition and symposium on the architecture of Ralph Adams Cram, Sweet Briar's premier architect. This is followed Friday with a walking tour and a panel discussion of the Cram architecture, Founders' Day, and a special keynote presentation by honorary degree recipient and Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin. Highlights of Friday and Saturday also include the second annual Center for Civic Renewal symposium. And our students look forward to their own special Centennial Event in the Fall—a national band giving a performance at a local club solely for Sweet Briar students and their guests.

Regions and area alumnae clubs are encouraged to host their own events—one of the many ways in which members of the Sweet Briar family can be involved with the College and the Centennial in their hometowns throughout the year. We especially look forward to concluding our Centennial Year with a resurgence of the traditional December 28 Sweet Briar Day celebrations with alumnae clubs everywhere.

Happy Birthday, Sweet Briar!

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS CALENDAR

January 1 – December 31, 2001

Winter Forums 2001—Civic Renewal in the United States: Americans' Participation (or Lack Thereof) in Public Life,

Co-chaired by Professor of Government Barbara Perry and Assistant Professor of Government Steve Bragaw

January 24, 2001

Civic Engagement in American Democracy: From Membership to Advocacy—and Beyond

Professor Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, and director of the Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University

January 31, 2001

Civic Engagement and "America's Promise"

Melinda Baskin Hudson, senior vice-president of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building the character of young people, founded and chaired by General Colin Powell

February 7, 2001

Participation and Representation in America: Old Theories Collide with New Realities

Professor Morris Fiorina, professor of political science and a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

April 19-22

Board of Directors meetings/Alumnae Association Board meetings

April 21-22

CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: PLAN TO BE AT SBC!

April 21

Lecture by Sally Ride, "America's First Woman in Space"

Centennial Awards Ceremony

Gala Reception, Dinner, Dancing, Fireworks

April 22

Centennial Chapel Service

May 5

Commencement

May 11-13

Reunion Weekend

June 10-15

Alumnae College *Everything Old is New Again: Rebirth in Renaissance Italy*

Led by Associate Professor and Chairman of the Music Department Jonathan Green

June 24-29

Alumnae College, *An Environmental Report Card—How Do We Score?*

Co-chaired by Associate Professor and Chairman of the new Environmental Studies Department David Orvos and Associate Professor and Chairman of the Biology Department Linda Fink

September 20-22

Centennial Alumnae Council Weekend

September 20-21

Symposium: *Ralph Adams Cram: Dreams and Reality.*

Co-chaired by Professor of Art History Aileen Laing and Director of College Galleries and Arts Management Rebecca Massie Lane

September 21-22

Center for Civic Renewal Symposium, "Citizenship and Leadership for a New Century"

Co-chaired by Professor of Government Barbara Perry and Assistant Professor of Government Steve Bragaw

September 21

Founders' Day

Keynote Address: *Shared Memories: The Lessons of History* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Honorary Degree Recipient

October 10

Special Centennial Celebration for Students: Band Event at Cattle Annie's, Lynchburg

October 19-21

Families' Weekend

December 28

Sweet Briar Day Centennial Celebrations in club areas around the country

Centennial Celebrations/Events in Key Club Areas/Regions throughout the year

CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Honorary Members:

Former Chairmen of the SBC Board of Directors

J. Bruce Bredin	Greenville, DE
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*Kathleen <i>Garcia</i> Pegues '71	Warrenton, VA
(also President of the	
Alumnae Association)	

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Diane B. Dalton '67	Milwaukee, WI
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Marshallyn <i>Yeargin</i> -Allsopp '68	Atlanta, GA
Catherine <i>Barnett</i> Brown '49	Madison, NJ
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Debby Dudman	Oklahoma City, OK
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Elinor <i>Ward</i> Francis '37	Bryn Mawr, PA
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Laura Groppe '85	Houston, TX
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Joan Lucy, Centennial Coordinator, Assistant Director of the Alumnae Association

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*Louise *Swiecki* Zingaro '80, Director of the Alumnae Association and Chairman of Centennial Events
*Joan Lucy, Coordinator of Centennial Events

**Also serves on the Centennial Commission*

Attention All Quilters!!!

Quilting is an art that women of all classes, races, ethnic groups, and religions have practiced throughout history. Quilts have kept people warm, decorated homes, taught the craft of sewing, celebrated friendship, kept idle hands and minds busy, and strengthened bonds of family and community. Quilts tell stories.

We hope that alumnae, students, faculty, staff, and friends of SBC will create a quilt of stories to celebrate Sweet Briar's Centennial.

Individual quilt squares might portray SBC milestones, traditions, events, persons, clubs, experiences, and values shaping the College over its first hundred years: historical memories preserved for the future. The collected squares will be professionally pieced together.

If you want to stitch a bit of Sweet Briar history, please send for full information and guidelines! Contact: Joan Lucy, Centennial Coordinator, Alumnae Office, Sweet Briar, VA 24595. Phone: (804) 381-6165; FAX: (804) 381-6132; e-mail: jlucy@sbc.edu

ROSAM QUAE MERUIT FERAT

Let her who has earned it wear the rose" is the motto of Sweet Briar College, chosen by the first Board of Directors. Dr. John M. McBryde submitted to the board several mottoes, favoring himself, "A perfect woman, nobly planned," as "indicative of the aim and policy of the school." The board, however, chose instead the one favored by his son, John M. McBryde, Jr., the designer of the College seal, "Rosam quae meruit ferat." Perhaps they desired to offer bearers of the seal a chance to savor one of the pleasures of higher education when the student reads the Latin with understanding.

"The Seal," said the designer, "consists of the arms of Fletcher and Lord Amherst, from whom the county takes its name.... The Tudor roses symbolize Sweet Briar although they are not the color of the sweet brier rose, for pink is not a proper heraldic tint. At the same time, they might suggest Virginia through Elizabeth Tudor, from whom our state derives its name."

*by Martha Lou Lemmon
Stohlman '34 and
Martha von Briesen '31*



The Past is prologue

One hundred years ago, in October of the year 1900, the lonely last inhabitant of Sweet Briar House and owner of Sweet Briar Plantation died. You know the story. Her death set in motion the creation of a college—one that will, beginning in January 2001, celebrate its Centennial Year. In preparation, we have been sprucing up our campus, putting new roofs, new gutters, new balustrades, even new mortar on beautiful old buildings that students and faculty alike have loved for nearly a century.

And we have been sprucing up much more than our buildings. We have been refining and renewing our educational program, improving our academic offerings inside the classrooms of Benedict, Fletcher, Babcock and Guion, and improving life beyond the classroom for our students. We have been finding new uses for old buildings. The train station that became a ceramics studio has become an environmental sciences laboratory. The milking barn has become a ceramics studio. The old date house that became a laundromat and housekeeping offices has become the Bistro, and we have plans for still more transformations.

These are exciting times at Sweet Briar—so much so that we

*Remarks excerpted from Founders' Day Convocation 2000 Address
By President Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld*

*Quotes from The Story of Sweet Briar College Volume I
by Martha Lou Lemmon Stohlman '34*



The first Amherst County students and their tutor, Mr. Arthur Gray, Jr.

spend much of our time looking ahead into the future—at what will have come to pass at Sweet Briar College by 2006, 2007, 2010. It seems that there is so much to do—a very steep hill to climb. How, I wonder, will we get it all done? And then comes Founders' Day, when we climb a very steep hill indeed, to the top of Monument Hill, and get some perspective on our essence, our genesis, and on the women and men who made this place.

As we stand on the cusp of our Centennial, it is amazing to see what has happened in a century. What must that first faculty of eight intrepid souls have thought as it assembled in the east parlor of Sweet Briar House for the first faculty meeting, two days before the opening of the first class? They had nothing to build on. No tradition. Nothing to turn to as precedent. But it turns out that by not being weighed down with the burden of how things had always been done before, they were blessedly free to be ahead of their time.

At that faculty meeting, the focus was student-centered from the first. Not only did the little faculty concern itself with minor matters,



seating in the dining hall and the school colors (we owe the pink and green to that first faculty meeting—they were preppy before their time). They also in that hour sketched out several approaches that would prove innovative and forward-looking. They inaugurated a fledgling advising system. They planned an Orientation with social events scheduled over several days so that everyone could get to know one another. They decided not to

create any rules until they had some idea “what rules were needed.” And best of all, the meeting took only one hour.

Their students, some 51 altogether, came with the widest variety of preparations. As was the case at every women’s college of the day, some needed preparatory work because they came from schools that varied widely in quality. All were new; “one girl could not stand the pace,” wept unceasingly for



weeks, and was sent home. But all the rest were very much ahead of their time.

The entire concept of college for women was still, particularly in the South, relatively new and mysterious. And yet just three weeks into the term, the students, recognizing the need for some rules, submitted a petition to the faculty that read, in part, “‘Believing there is dignity and honor in student government we desire individual and community

responsibility for the conduct of the students in matters not strictly academic.’” They asked for the “‘right to control outdoor exercise of the students’ and for permission to ‘extend our power as occasion arises and we prove worthy to be vested with greater power and authority.’” The faculty agreed, and two weeks later, the students presented to them a constitution.

That student constitution included a requirement that students exercise an hour each day or be fined 25 cents. Apparently this very forward-looking emphasis on wellness sometimes clashed with academics. One girl that year, “petitioning to drop geometry,” declared that the drop was necessary because “‘her many studies were interfering with her daily exercise.’” On the other hand, another was willing “to substitute a three-hour course for the one-hour hygiene course in which she found the lectures ‘constitutionally unbearable.’”

Sweet Briar was ahead of its time in other ways as well. From the first, there were dances (a form of entertainment that no other women’s colleges in the area allowed), and “gentlemen callers were permitted on weekends.”

That first year, the matter of sororities came up. A national sorority wanted to establish a chapter. The faculty (which, we are assured, never had “any seri-



Mrs. Williams’ carriage with her servant, Logan Anderson, at right, 1906.



A dance by the pond during the May Day festivities of 1913.

ous arguments,” but conducted themselves with “simplicity, unanimity, and mutual respect and understanding”) discussed the matter at length. Several “motions were made which were, after much talk, withdrawn.” Finally, the faculty appointed a committee. Its charge? “to instill into the minds of the students the idea of a general literary and dramatic society.” This precursor of subliminal communication worked. Stohlman relates in *The Story of Sweet Briar College* that a month later, the students petitioned the faculty “to organize a literary and dramatic society,” itself the precursor to Paint and Patches.

When Dr. Connie Guion came to teach chemistry and physics, she quickly saw something very special about Sweet Briar’s students. “I soon realized,” she wrote, “that the criterion for every proposition, be it for academic work or a May Day Dance, was ‘Is it best for the college?’ Everywhere I was conscious of a spirit of ownership or a better word is partnership, a spirit of jealousy for this growing young college.” And when President Benedict’s younger sister came to visit in 1908 with several Vassar class-

mates, she was fascinated by “the sense of maturity of those girls. Happy though they were, young though they were, they were responsible. They were laying foundations, pioneering, helping to mold an institution...they were making their traditions—and the process was making women of them.”

The final tradition created by that first class we honor today. It stems from the fact that Indiana Fletcher Williams asked only one thing of us in return for her remarkable gift of a college: that we maintain the graveyard on Monument Hill, perpetual home of her loved ones and in particular her beloved daughter Daisy. Accordingly, when five students of that first class entered their senior year, the first Founders’ Day was planned. The faculty met to select appropriate caps and gowns, and on Founders’ Day, November 19, 1909, the seniors donned their academic regalia for the first time.

Today, nearly a century later, as we ascend to the Monument for a brief ceremony, we honor Indiana’s wish just as students and faculty have been doing since those first students and founding faculty. May we this day take strength from their strength; may we see with their



clarity of vision; may we retain their innocent conviction that all things are possible. May we honor them and celebrate them, and then quietly vow to do our part to take up their work. The past is prologue.

The entire concept of college for women was still, particularly in the South, relatively new and mysterious.

Believe It or Not: *Sweet Briar ghost stories continue* *to thrill children and adults*

Katherine Hill was eight years old when her mother, Dr. Barbara Ann Hill became Sweet Briar's eighth president (1990-1996). "In the beginning," says Barbara, "Katherine was scared to death of the ghost stories. But by the end of her first year, she understood that there was a difference between ghosts who were unhappy and spirits who were looking out for you. The story of the 1927 fire at Sweet Briar House is a wonderful example of the latter. Indiana and Daisy returned home after the fire because they cared so much about the place.



Sweet Briar House after the fire in 1927

Katherine knew all the stories. I knew them, and all of our visitors learned them," laughs Barbara. "I found that kind of mythologizing interesting as a way of acknowledging the importance of founding family. The ghost stories Ann Whitley had gathered, in combination with places like Monument Hill, Sweet Briar House, and the museum, offered a wonderful way to connect with the College's past."

For nearly three decades, Ann Marshall Whitley '47, curator of the Sweet Briar Museum, has been scouring every attic, basement, and broom closet on campus in search of the College's historic treasures. Early on, while rummaging through an old carton of photographs, she had her own chilling brush with the supernatural. Ann's tale, as well as some of the others she has collected in her book, *Ghost*



Katherine Hill, age eight

Photo by Lorry Peters

Stories and Mysteries of Sweet Briar, appears in this "believe it or not" section of the Centennial Alumnae Magazine.

The following tales are excerpted with the author's permission from Ghost Stories and Mysteries of Sweet Briar by Ann Marshall Whitley. The copy was edited for length.

The Fire

In 1927 a terrible fire nearly destroyed Sweet Briar House. It was during the second year of the tenure of President Meta Glass; she had already become attached to the lovely antiques sheltered within its gracious interior. There were the oil paintings, furniture, bronzes, clocks, silver, and oriental carpets of the founding family throughout the rooms.

Every able-bodied person on campus helped carry the contents to safety—faculty, students, staff, and farm workers converged on the house. The smoke was thick and choking; flames leapt through the floors and up the walls from the basement. Some said the fire started in a pile of firewood under the back porch, but the heaviest damage occurred in the front and mid-sections of the house.

The historic properties were carried out the doors and lifted through windows. The house was not only home to the president, but to several faculty members as well. Many things were destroyed, others smoke-

damaged, but the fire was contained and extinguished by late afternoon. The community was shocked and saddened.

That evening as dusk fell, a faculty member walked into the boxwood circle in front of the house to view the destruction. The moon was rising, casting eerie shadows across the charred facade and porch. The front door was a black gaping void. Dark streaks discolored the bricks above the windows. Foundation plantings had been trampled, debris littered the yard, and the smell of damp charred wood filled the evening air. It was a scene of utter desolation.

As the professor stared at the ruin, she noticed a movement from the corner of her eye. She saw a tall woman accompanied by a young girl stepping out of the boxwoods. They were arm in arm, slowly approaching the porch. They did not speak to her or to each other, but ascended the porch steps and disappeared into the burned blackness of the house.

There was nothing unusual about the pair except for their clothing. It looked quite outdated to the professor. The woman had on a long skirt that swept the ground. Her blouse had a high neck with a sleeve style of the 1890s. The girl's dress was calf-length and she wore high-buttoned shoes, an outfit common to young girls 40 years before. This seemed very odd to the

onlooker, accustomed to the flapper look of the 1920s.

These must be mountain women, she thought. She had never seen them on campus before. She shook her head at the peculiarities of some people and dismissed the incident from her mind. After all, tomorrow was another day of classes and she had work to do.

Nearly 30 minutes later another faculty member entered the boxwood circle. While she was looking at the house, a woman and a young girl walked out on the porch, stood for a moment while the girl turned to look back into the dark hall, then came down the steps, walked silently across the grass and disappeared into the boxwoods. She thought them curiosity seekers from the countryside, noting the very outmoded clothing styles. As she left the yard she thought no more about them.

Several weeks later, the two professors were seated at the same table for dinner in the Refectory. Several faculty members were discussing the fire and the reconstruction work at Sweet Briar House when one of them asked if anyone else had seen a woman and young girl go into the house at dusk on the day of the fire. She described the pair and their old-fashioned attire. Did anyone know who they might have been? The other faculty observer replied that she had seen them come out and disap-

I heard a distinct low laugh behind my left shoulder. I turned to Mrs. Whiteman with a big grin on my face. She was not in the room. She was not even in the house. I was alone.

pear into the boxwood; she assumed that they were just mountain women coming to satisfy their curiosity. No one else had seen them, but the incident was a little bizarre and the story spread.

At Mt. San Angelo across the road, the elderly Nannie Christian, who was working there, heard the story. She had worked at Sweet Briar for the Williams family before Daisy Williams died.

"Couldn't be nobody but Miz Williams and Daisy. Sure 'nuff that's who they was. Sounds just like 'em. I know they comes 'round now and then. Lots of folks has seen Miz Williams includin' me. She just checkin' up on her things. Her things meant the world to her. They might be dead, but they's not gone."

The Face in the Red Velvet Frame

It was while assembling the antique properties of Sweet Briar for the new museum that the question of locating a portrait of the founder of the College,

Indiana Fletcher Williams, arose.

Since the founding of the College in 1901, nobody had found a likeness of Miss Indie. Many requests for a portrait had come in over the years, but no one had been able to produce an identifiable picture.

One Fall while doing some research in the College library, I discovered an old grocery carton sitting on the floor in the corner of a storage room off the Rare Book Room. The weather had been wet and rainy for some weeks; the smell of dampness was strong in the room. A streak of mildew decorated the wall just above the carton. I felt that whatever was in the carton might be damp, so I carried it into the Rare Book Room and opened it.

It contained a stack of 19th-century photographs of people and houses. These were unidentified but on the back of each was a number. Obviously there had been a key to these photos, however, it was missing. A note in the bottom of the box said,

The face in the red velvet frame

"These photographs were found by Reuben Higginbotham in Sweet Briar House basement in 1953." Reuben had worked in Sweet Briar House for Miss Meta Glass, the College's third president, stayed on through the tenure of President Martha B. Lucas, and then retired in the early years of Dr. Anne Gary Pannell's presidency.

The photos were damp and some of their edges were beginning to curl. I carried them to Sweet Briar House in the hope of drying them on top of the radiators, which were enclosed in wooden decorative frames. They would be out of direct light if I used the dining room radiators. Edith Whiteman, wife of President Harold Whiteman, was home; she helped me spread the photos out on the dining room table to look at them.

I recognized the face of Elijah Fletcher, the founder's father, several of her daughter Daisy at different ages, and two of her husband, James Henry

Williams...These were all family photographs.

There were three photos of unidentified women. Two of them were of the same person at different ages. She was fair, with very light blue eyes, aquiline features, and a pleasant expression. The third was of a woman in her twenties who looked related to the woman in the other two photos, but she was stouter, her face rounder, her hair darker.

As I looked at the two photos of the same woman, I knew I had seen that face before—but where? Of course, the face in the red velvet frame in the Rare Book Room at the library. It was locked behind wire mesh doors on a bookshelf that had several mementos of the Fletcher family. The photo had always been identified as Daisy Williams.

I had seen the face in the red velvet frame often enough and always doubted that it was Daisy. The face was more mature than any of Daisy's photos. Although it was done in profile, I sensed it was another person altogether. The librarians insisted that it was Daisy.

I decided to go back to the library and bring the picture to Sweet Briar House so that I could compare it to the two photos of the unidentified woman.

Within fifteen minutes I returned with the face in the red velvet frame. I rushed into the dining room and laid the photo next to the other two. It was





Bronze medallion of Daisy discovered in 1931

obviously the same person at three different ages! The framed portrait was done at about age 16, the second one at around 25 and the third one was the woman in her forties.

Then came the acid test. I removed the photo from the frame and discovered it had been photographed in Paris, France. Daisy had never been to Europe, but her mother had, at the age of sixteen!

I stared down at the pictures, getting more excited by the second, and said to Mrs. Whiteman, who I thought was behind me, "Do you know who we have here? It is the founder, it is Miss Indie. We have found Miss Indie.

I heard a distinct low laugh behind my left shoulder. I turned to Mrs. Whiteman with a big grin on my face. She was not in the room. She was not even in the house. I was alone.

Daisy Williams Gymnasium

For many years the College did not have a proper gymnasium. Grammer Commons, the large room in the lower level of Grammer dormitory, did duty as the gymnasium, but the space was inadequate and the ceiling too low for much more than calisthenics. However, it had to suffice, especially during inclement weather. One student reported that she hated gym on rainy days as she detested calisthenics. In

those days physical education was required three times per week for all four years. No student was excused.

The president and the Board knew that something had to be done: fund-raising for a new gymnasium began in the early 1920s, an effort spearheaded by the Athletic Association. In 1931, cornerstone ceremonies were held and the gymnasium built. Long discussions, campus-wide, took place to name it. All buildings at Sweet Briar had names, but this building being neither an academic building nor a residence hall posed a special problem. Only three days before the dedication ceremony, the name was selected: it was to be the Daisy Williams Gymnasium.

On the very morning that the name was announced, Mrs. Martindale, the College housekeeper, went to her supply storage area located under the first-floor steps in Gray dormitory. She found to her surprise a large bronze medallion of the bust of Daisy Williams. The 16-inch diameter medallion was mounted

on a somewhat moth-eaten velvet background and it was framed.

Mrs. Martindale had been director of the halls of residence since 1906: nothing escaped her notice. But this was an item she had never seen before. Quite surprised, she carried the medallion to President Meta Glass, who was charmed by it but also quite in the dark over its sudden appearance. People all over the campus were asked if they knew where it had come from. Nobody knew. Its origin remains a mystery. However, Miss Glass decided to have it mounted on the entrance hall wall just inside the doors of the new gymnasium. It is there to this day.

On the day of the dedication Miss Glass said, "I could think of no explanation of its appearance except that Miss Indie sent it in appreciation."

If the Walls Could Talk

When the first faculty was hired, there was not enough housing on campus for everyone; several faculty members were invited to live in the extra bedrooms at Sweet Briar House. These were not normally superstitious people who took fright at odd happenings and "things that go bump in the night," but...

THE MUSIC BOX

One professor reported being in the middle parlor one afternoon when it was otherwise empty. Daisy Williams' music box suddenly began to play. It played one full tune of the eight for which it had been programmed, then cut itself off. Most items in the room had belonged to the founding family; the music box sat on the marble base of one of the tall pier mirrors, where it had always been. The professor admitted to being "a bit uneasy."

THE SEVENTH STEP

It seems that for some reason several faculty boarders as well as others working in the house tripped on the seventh step from the bottom of the front hall staircase. The seventh step was no different from the other steps in the stairwell. It was not uneven, did not project farther than the other steps, but it seemed often to catch



heels or toes, causing accidents.

No less reliable a person than Miss Dee Long, professor of English for many years, told that Miss Elizabeth Czanomska, of the Department of Religion, fell at the seventh step one evening. After a moment of unconsciousness she opened her eyes and said to those trying to lift her up, "Miss Indie tripped me in revenge. I broke one of her teacups today."

Even today people using the stairs are wary of the seventh step. The saying has always been: If Miss Indie is unhappy with something you have done, she will trip you on the seventh step.

DAISY'S PLAYROOM

In early days the infirmary used two rooms upstairs in the back of the house. Students were put to bed there with assorted aches, sprains, colds, and pains. Meals were carried from the Refectory kitchen by a young man named Sam. As soon as Sam reached the walk leading to the house he was heard to repeat over and over, "Miss Indie, if you don't do nothin' to me, I won't do nothin' to you." Sam

claimed to have seen Miss Indie walking through the boxwood bushes on two occasions at the dinner hour. On reaching the path to the house he was also reported to carry the tray as fast as he could without spilling anything. One student said that if Sam had been timed, he would probably have broken every world record for the 50 yard dash.

After the infirmary had moved to new quarters in the faculty apartments at No. 1 Faculty Row, the smallest of the rooms that it had formerly occupied in Sweet Briar House was turned over to a faculty boarder. The room is only large enough for a bed, chair, chest, and bookshelf.

The professor had difficulty keeping her room door closed. Often when she was in the room, the door would open and close of its own accord. She discovered that the room had been Daisy Williams' playroom, where the child kept her dolls, books, toys, and games. The professor was convinced that this was Daisy coming to play. Sometimes the door would open and close immediately. At other times it would be open for 10 or 15 minutes before closing. When the professor left her room she always closed the door; when she returned, the door was usually wide open.

THE WEST PARLOR CHANDELIER

One evening an instructor who liked to read in the west parlor was seated comfortably in a large green velvet overstuffed chair, one of two in the room. The large overhead chandelier with crystal prisms had been wired for electricity, but at that moment was not turned on; the instructor was using a floor lamp. Suddenly the chandelier lit up and immediately switched off. On and off it went a half dozen times. No one else was in the room. The instructor said, "Daisy, stop playing with the lights!" The activity ceased immediately.

The Signora Stories

Signora Hollins was born in Virginia of slave parents just as the final convulsions of the Civil War were drawing to an agonizing end. After the war, she was brought to the Sweet Briar plantation by her aunt, who was to be the cook for the Williams family. Daisy Williams was about seven years old, so it must have been 1873 or 1874. Signora was about nine.

The two children became good friends and playmates. They explored the edge of the woods, pretended to fish in the spring in the west dell, played with Daisy's dolls and chickens, and rode Daisy's little pony, "Bounce." They had playhouses in the big boxwood bushes,



John Butler, Signora Hollins, and Sterling Jones in 1935.

One day before the College opened, Signora came out of the faculty apartments and found Indiana

Williams waiting for her.

Although Signora knew that Indiana had been

dead for several years she said, "I thought nothing about it."

Daisy's hitching post. "Daisy's money." There was money buried in another place, she told Signora. "The other place money is buried is under an old pine tree that is a stump now near a large white rock on the hill across the field from the lake." Signora never said whether she searched for the money or if it was ever found.

At the time of these stories Signora was well into her nineties. A tape of her stories was made by some members of the Sweet Briar faculty. Signora Hollins died during the summer of 1954.

P.S.: "Somewhat in accord with the following"

In a short story entitled "Motive vs. Opportunity," Agatha Christie had a certain solicitor, Mr. Petherick, make a statement. I am somewhat in accord with the following:

I may say here and now that I do not belong to the ranks of those who cover spiritualism with ridicule and scorn. I am a believer in evidence. And I think when we have an impartial mind and weigh the evidence in favor of spiritualism there remains much that cannot be put down to fraud or lightly set aside. Therefore, as I say, I am neither a believer or an unbeliever. There is certain testimony with which one cannot afford to disagree.

—Ann Marshall Whitley

picked wild strawberries and other fruit, and worked in Daisy's little garden.

After Daisy's death at 16 in 1884, Signora remained at Sweet Briar working for Indiana Williams for about six months. Then Signora was sent by Miss Indie to Massachusetts. First she worked for a family that kept a private school for girls in Boston; later she went to Amherst, Massachusetts, where the same family had a boarding house for college boys. Signora was in the north for 12 years before returning to Virginia.

When Sweet Briar College was founded, Signora applied for work and was hired. What she saw in those early days were tall buildings where cherry and peach orchards had been. There were only four buildings then: the faculty apartments [now House 1, Faculty Row], the first building built, at that time housed the workers who were building Gray, Carson, and the Refectory. Signora was hired to be the cook in the faculty apartments.

One day before the College opened, Signora came out of the faculty apartments and found Indiana Williams waiting for her. Although Signora knew that Indiana had been dead for several years she said, "I thought nothing about it."

She continued that Miss Indie looked perfectly natural and was wearing her usual black skirt and white shirtwaist. As they walked together toward the new buildings and then came near the old slave cabin behind Sweet Briar House, Indiana asked where the iron gate was to Amelia's house and where was Daisy's pony? Signora said that she didn't know.

A little later, near the cabin, Miss Indie told Signora that her money was buried behind the well under a large flat rock at the end of the well drain. She then told Signora to get a stick and stir it around to pry up the rock and the money would be underneath. She said that there was money on the other side of the boxwood hedge, buried by

The second time Signora saw Indiana was in the hall of the Refectory. "She was only walking through and we didn't speak, but she had on the same white shirtwaist and black skirt, and she was just looking around." This too was before the College opened.

Many years passed before Signora saw Indiana again. At that time, Miss Emilie Watts McVea was president of Sweet Briar. She had taken up her duties in the fall of 1916. When Indiana materialized the third time, she told Signora that her silver was buried in a wall in Sweet Briar House—sealed up in the wall on the landing of the front staircase, "the wall of Mr. Williams' bedroom." Signora informed Miss McVea, who was willing to go along with what Signora had told her. College carpenters opened the wall: the silver was indeed there. "It was wrapped up in three paper packages and they were black with dirt. The spoons looked like gold and I don't know what happened to it after that."

The Power to Dream Rightly

1901-1916

Sweet Briar College opened its doors on September 27, 1906, to 36 boarding students, 15 day students, and 11 members of the faculty. At the time it possessed approximately 3,000 acres of land, including the plantations of Sweet Briar and Mt. St. Angelo, four college buildings, four faculty residences and \$5,700 left from the original endowment. It also had Mary K. Benedict as its first president; she was the most important item on the list of Sweet Briar's assets.



By Margaret Banister '16

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 75th Anniversary

Issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Copy edited for length



Cupala under construction in 1906, above. Building the dam the same year, right.

After an out-of-court settlement made by the payment of \$25,000 to the so-called heirs and \$30,000 to Amherst County, the charter was granted in 1901. The Board then settled down to the practical problems of establishing a college in an isolated stretch of country where nothing existed but a plantation house.



When Indiana Fletcher Williams died on October 29, 1900, she left an estate which seemed large to Virginians of that period. There was much interest and excitement when it was learned that her last will and testament provided that this fortune be used to establish "a school or seminary" in memory of her only child Daisy, who died at age sixteen. The estate then comprised 8,000 acres of land in Amherst County and in Lynchburg and \$545,891 in securities and cash. This was left in trust with instructions to carry out the provisions of the will to four men: the Rt. Reverend A. M. Randolph, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, the Reverend Arthur R. Gray, rector of the Church of the Ascension in Amherst, the Reverend Theodore Carson, rector of St. Paul's Church in

Lynchburg and Mr. Stephen R. Harding of Amherst, farm manager of the Sweet Briar plantation. According to Mrs. Williams' will these men were instructed to select three more to form a Board of Directors. They chose the Reverend Carl E. Grammer of Philadelphia, Judge Legh R. Watts of Portsmouth and Dr. John M. McBryde of V.P.I. in Blacksburg.

Upon these seven men devolved the responsibility of making decisions necessary to carry out the terms of the will and bring the new institute into reality. In the six years between Mrs. Williams' death and the opening of the school, the Board faced many difficulties. The first Board, in spite of the preponderance of Episcopal ministers, decided that the institution should be nondenominational and that it should be "a liberal arts college of the first rank."

A charter needed to be secured from the Virginia legislature as a first step. This was not easy to do, for immediate opposition arose from two sources. Amherst County authorities objected to the withdrawal of so much property from the tax structure and claimed that \$31,000 in back taxes was owed by the estate. The second source came from the children of Lucian Fletcher, the disinherited son of Elijah Fletcher, who was never spoken of by the family. They threatened to take legal steps to break Mrs. Williams' will. After an out-of-court settlement made by the payment of \$25,000 to the so-called heirs and \$30,000 to Amherst County, the charter was granted in 1901. The Board then settled down to the practical problems of establishing a college in an isolated stretch of country where nothing existed

but a plantation house.

An architect was selected, Ralph Adams Cram of Boston. His beautiful plans were drawn and approved. The site for the college buildings was selected, roads were built, sewage, water and electric systems installed and bricks of red Virginia clay baked on the property. The contractor engaged to build the first of the college buildings was good at construction but a poor manager. Things needed were not ordered; things ordered were lost in transit. Delays were frequent; during the delays prices of materials went up, exceeding original estimates. The construction workers called a strike and the contractor went into bankruptcy. The Board then engaged a Lynchburg firm to complete the construction, only to find that they were bound by contract to the original company, a situation which involved a

I have often wondered about those 36 girls, some of them from distant states, arriving by train at an open space marked only by a sign, driving through deep woods in pouring rain to buildings giving every indication of newness and rawness—no grass, no trees and a sea of mud left by the builders. They had no traditions, no organizations, no precedents.



Mt. St. Angelo before and after Dr. McBryde's "repairs."

settlement of \$5,300.

Time went on; funds dwindled. Changes took place in the Board during those years. Mr. Carson died; his place was taken by Mr. N. C. Manson of Lynchburg. Mr. Harding, who had been greatly trusted by Miss Indie, proved to be most uncooperative. He was one of the original four trustees, therefore, a member of the Board. He was also the executor of the will. He showed little interest, however, in establishing a college. He refused to move out of Sweet Briar House, where he had been living since Miss Indie's death; he expended funds without consulting the Board; and finally, in 1903, he withdrew entirely. His place was taken by Mr. Fergus Reid of Norfolk.

Dr. McBryde, a member of the first Board, rendered invaluable service to Sweet Briar during those difficult years and had been unanimously offered the presidency of the new college. He hesitated at first, asking time

to consider the matter. In the meantime he had been in charge of what was intended to be the repairing of the house at Mt. St. Angelo, intended to be the home of the president. When the Board went to inspect the work that had been done, they were appalled. Instead of being repaired, the house had practically been rebuilt and changed from a smaller Italian villa-type to a much larger, impressive Georgian structure with white columns covering two facades. The \$7,500 allocated for the project had been greatly exceeded. The Board was upset. Dr. McBryde was apparently annoyed, and in January 1906, announced that he could not "see his way clear" to becoming president of Sweet Briar; he would remain at V.P.I. His place on the Board was taken by Mr. Charles Heald of Lynchburg.

So there the harassed gentlemen were, with the College scheduled to open in September of that year and with no president available. Bishop Randolph and Dr. Grammer were appointed a committee to find a president. It was Dr. Grammer who traveled to Missouri to interview a young professor of psychology named Mary K. Benedict, 31 years of age, a graduate of Vassar with a recent Ph.D. from Yale. He liked what he saw; she was offered the presidency of Sweet Briar.



President Benedict, 1914

When Mary Kendrick Benedict arrived by train early in June of 1906, there was no station by the railroad tracks where the train stopped—only a sign which read "Sweet Briar." She was met by a horse and buggy, driven through the woods, and deposited at the first of the faculty houses down the hill from the College buildings, now known as No. 1 Faculty Row, then called "The Apartment House." There she was expected to live until Mt. St. Angelo was ready for her occupancy.

Upon investigation, Miss Benedict found herself faced with an unbelievable situation, calculated to daunt the stoutest heart. The College was scheduled to open in three months, and practically nothing was completed. The four buildings,

WHEN GRAZERS WERE MOWERS

Excerpted from an article by Ann Marshall Whitley '47,
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Sweet Briar's lawn mowers at work, ca. 1914

When Sweet Briar College was founded, there were sheep on the property. They were raised as a cash crop in the days of the plantation. Lambs were bought and sold each spring; after lambing season was over, the mature sheep were sheared and their wool sold.

The Williams and Mt. St. Angelo flocks inherited by the College were kept for a number of years. They were white-faced, flat-tailed sheep bred for meat, wool, and offspring. In those early days when all possible means were taken by the first Board to bring income to create a self-sustaining institution, students ate a considerable amount of lamb, mutton, and shepherd's pie.

At that time there was not much farm machinery. Two mowing machines were pulled by teams of mules to cut the hay; the grass around the buildings was kept "trimmed" by the sheep. Sheep, close-to-the-ground eaters with long, flexible lips, spend more than half their time grazing. Like goats, they survive on grass, weeds, and waste roughage—perfect lawn mowers.

By the time World War I came, the College was more advanced mechanically; the sheep were phased out in favor of commercial lawn mowers. These took manpower, made more noise, and were less attractive, but did not require feeding, shearing, shepherding, dipping, debuffing, breeding, transporting, marketing... Since then, students have been fed much less lamb!

the Refectory, the Academic Building, and the two dormitories, Gray and Carson, were not finished. The heating system and the electric wiring had not been installed; the kitchen equipment was not in place; the dormitories were bare. Worst of all, only one student had been enrolled and two members of the faculty employed. If Miss Benedict was daunted, she did not show it. In the three months that remained, she and members of the Board of Directors "passed" a miracle. They advertised; they traveled to various cities and towns; they spoke to meetings and talked to parents, and they enrolled 36 girls from 12 different states. No one has ever known how Miss Benedict managed to find the additional

nine faculty members in that short time at that late date.

I have often wondered about those 36 girls, some of them from distant states, arriving by train at an open space marked only by a sign, driving through deep woods in pouring rain to buildings giving every indication of newness and rawness—no grass, no trees and a sea of mud left by the builders. They had no traditions, no organizations, no precedents. They were isolated far out in the country with no transportation available except the Southern Railroad. It would be easy to understand much homesickness and dissatisfaction, but nothing in the early records indicates that this was so.



Coming to the College, accompanied by Mom, 1913

The first Field Day was held, and a silver loving cup, presented to the Athletic Association by the faculty, was won by Ellen "Jim" Hayes. Throughout her four years, Jim remained Sweet Briar's outstanding athlete.



Ellen "Jim" Hayes '14
and Ruth Maurice '14

Within a month, a Student Government Association was formed, a constitution and by-laws written. Shortly thereafter, the Athletic Association was established, then a dramatic club and a branch of the YWCA. During that first year a joint choir and glee club was formed. And even with that small group and the newness of everything, May Day was celebrated in the Boxwood Circle and a dance given that night, events which became one of our cherished traditions for many years.

For 1907-1908, the student body more than doubled. Ninety girls registered in September and the faculty increased to 15. A station had been built by the railroad tracks and Sweet Briar acquired a second bus. Almost every train stopped in those days, and a horse-drawn bus, driven by Mr. Rhea, known always as Bus Rhea, met every train.

Another innovation that second year was the Tea Room in the little cottage at one side of Sweet Briar House, which had been the office in plantation days. It was much smaller then and almost hidden by box bushes. Here the faculty, with student volunteers, opened a little tea room two afternoons a week. Emphasis was put upon tea, ginger ale, and a variety of cookies and cakes, especially birthday cakes.

The completion of another dormitory—Randolph—marked 1908-1909, and the student body grew to 111. Intra-collegiate athletics began, with much rivalry among the classes. The first Field Day was held, and a silver loving cup, presented to the Athletic Association by the faculty, was won by Ellen "Jim" Hayes. Throughout her four years, Jim remained Sweet Briar's outstanding athlete. Also that year, the dramatic club was split into two clubs, The Billikens and The Merry Jesters. (The Billikens later became The Ripplers.) Productions included *You Never Can Tell* by Shaw, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* by Beaumont and Fletcher, and *The Merry Jesters in the Land of Heart's Desire* from a play by Yeats; and such vignettes as *A Russian Honeymoon*, *The Masonic Ring*, *A Bachelor's Romance*, *Arms and the Man*, and *The Importance of being Earnest*.

A banner year for Sweet Briar was 1909-1910. A boat-house was built at the lake, increasing the importance of water sports; a book shop was opened; the *Sweet Briar Magazine* was published for the first time, and the first year-book, the *Briar Patch* was issued. The first Founders' Day instituted the tradition that seniors wear their caps and gowns for the first time on that occa-

Life in the early years was simple, informal and friendly. A close relationship existed between faculty and students and among the faculty with each other. Everybody knew everybody. Except for faculty members who lived down the

The campus was more coun-
trified then. It had never known
the attentions of a landscape
architect and, except for the

With none of the amusements afforded in cities and towns, we had to make our own fun and entertainment, and this we did with energy and ingenuity. There were also frequent lectures and concerts by well-known performers from the outside world. A look at the col-

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lege program for 1911-12 gives a picture of what non-academic life was like: YWCA reception for new students; lecture: "The Relation of Art to the Twentieth Century" by Mr. Frank Parsons of New York; readings given by Mr. Willoughby Reade, Professor of English at Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va.; freshmen entertained by juniors; piano recital by Miss Alice Burbage; a wedding reception given by Dr. and Mrs. Walker of St. Angelo in honor of the marriage of their daughter Violet to Mr. Basil Walker; a Hallowe'en party given by new students in honor of the old students; lecture, "American Humor" by Dr. Alphonso Smith of the University of Virginia; recital given by music department faculty; a vaudeville by the sophomores; concert given by the American String Quartet; *Quality Street* presented by The Merry Jesters; freshmen-sophomore debate; *She Stoops to Conquer* presented by the dramatic club; Christmas festival service by the choir and orchestra; and on and on through recitals, lectures, concerts, dramatic presentations, class parties, a student government association reception for the faculty, a senior circus, a glee club concert, a lecture on "Some Fairy Tales of Olden Times" by Tom Peete Cross, Sweet Briar's professor of



Picnic at Mt. St. Angelo. Note the Hoffman suits.

English—to May Day and then Commencement.

May Day was our most beloved event of the year. The election of the May Queen, selection of the court, planning, rehearsing, presentation, the hundreds of visitors, the dance that night, all served to delight and inspire everyone. The entire student body was in costume. The maypole was danced in the Boxwood Circle, followed by a pageant presented down the green slopes of the West Dell for the Queen, her Court, and visitors.

The West Dell was the scene of the Final Play, presented at night during Commencement Weekend. This was usually a Shakespearean presentation; *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*. I remember, though, one year a Robin Hood play, *Sherwood*, was chosen. The actors were drawn from the entire student body, and

rehearsals went on for weeks during the spring. A problem: the tree frogs abounding in the beautiful old tulip poplars around the pool at the foot of the Dell provided an unwanted croaking chorus which frequently drowned Mr. Shakespeare's words. It amused us to see Mr. William Bland Dew, Sweet Briar's distinguished-looking treasurer, going around with a long bamboo pole, poking up into the trees in an effort to silence the frogs. During one performance even Mr. Dew's activity proved ineffective. The noise was so great that the Dell had to be abandoned and the play completed indoors.

Music played an important part in that first decade. In the opening year there was a choir and glee club and later the Mandolin Club and an orchestra. We derived much musical appreciation and a sense of comradeship from frequent

musical events. One pleasant memory many girls took away with them was of the spring evenings Miss Emily Abbott came out and sat under the trees on the quadrangle with her banjo. She sang Negro spirituals, at that time not well-known in other parts of the country; students gathered all around her.

The Walker family, to whom Mt. St. Angelo had been sold, provided pleasant social activities. They opened St. Angelo to the students and made themselves very much a part of Sweet Briar life. They were a charming English family who had migrated to Canada, then to Florida, and finally to Virginia—Dr. and Mrs. Walker, six grown sons and daughters, and Mrs. Walker's sister, known as "Auntie."

Only Thanksgiving Day itself was a holiday, always a great occasion. We had a traditional dinner followed by some special entertainment. I have a vivid recollection of the Lynchburg Hunt Club meeting on campus Thanksgiving morning my freshman year. It had snowed just enough to cover the ground and the horses, the red-coated riders, and hounds streaking across the white fields formed a scene which has remained with me all these many years.

The lights went out at 10:30 at night, literally. They dimmed ominously at 10:20 in warning,

and at 10:30 the entire electrical system was turned off and the electrician went home. The girls did not have to go to bed; we could gather in each others' rooms and talk as long as we wanted, but we had to talk in whispers and sit in darkness.

Ankle-length dresses were the fashion and no one had ever thought of slacks or blue jeans, but Sweet Briar nevertheless had a uniform, the Hoffman suit. A naval tailor in Norfolk began making sailor suits for girls, long pleated skirts topped by middy blouses with sailor collars and the square-folded silk ties that sailors wore. No matter where a girl came from nor what else she had to wear, few finished their first year without a Hoffman suit.

Going into Lynchburg by train on Saturday afternoons was a favorite diversion. The schedule of the Southern Railroad worked out nicely. Shortly after lunch a train went into town and several hours later, another train left the city going north. That provided time for shopping and relaxation at Craighill and Jones' drugstore on Main Street, drawing us by its soda fountain, small tables, and delectable concoctions. We always came back laden with delicacies which the Refectory did not provide, especially Gruyère cheese, Guava jelly, crackers, and mince pies, to be warmed up on radiator tops.

The Southern Railroad also contributed to the gastronomical pleasures of Sweet Briar. All trains stopped at Monroe for a change of engines. This required approximately 20 minutes, sometimes longer. So this wait, plus the running time between Lynchburg and Sweet Briar, created an interval frequently used to great satisfaction by students in the dining car, where the attendants, accustomed to the influx of girls, gave hurried attention to orders for sandwiches and snacks. Food was an important item in our lives, and few failed to put on weight during the course of a year. Dr. Harley ascribed this fact to country air, proper exercise, and plenty of sleep, but it is doubtful that these were the only causes.

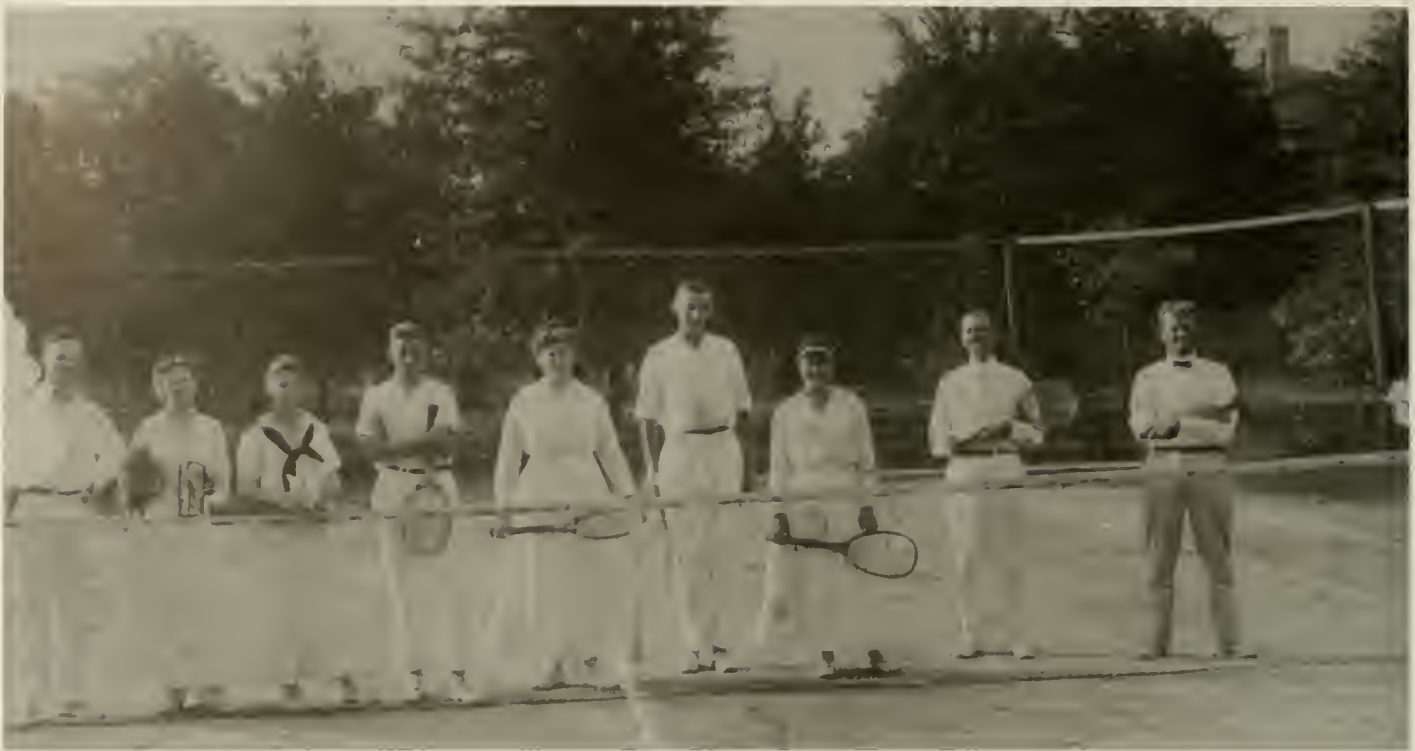
It was customary for the classes to plant, first Sweet Briar Roses against the arcades, and later class trees around the College buildings. At Commencement each year, Class Day was held, a grave dug under the class tree and things that had most bothered the graduating members buried there. In my class of 1916, for instance, Rebecca Stout buried all her French books, notebooks, and everything she possessed that furthered the study of French. Also in that grave I buried a large square box full of tonic bottles accumulated throughout my four years, but



Boaters and swimmers on the lake in 1913.



Rebecca Stout, May Day, 1916



A group of players who played daily while "vacationing" at Sweet Briar in the summer of 1915. Second from left is Eleanor Miller, mother of Lucy Miller '30. At that time the tennis courts were located where Fletcher now stands. Note Sweet Briar House in background.

never opened. Weighing only 99 pounds at graduation, I had been the object of a drive by family and Dr. Harley to gain at least the one pound necessary to reach one hundred. I never did.

I have said little about financial matters, but our lack of endowment was always before us. I quote the *Briar Patch* on this subject: "This year marks the beginning of real, concentrated effort toward an Endowment Fund. It is absolutely imperative that Sweet Briar should be liberally endowed...let us work to the goal of \$10,000. The reward will more than justify the efforts—the consciousness of an act lovingly and conscientiously performed." As of my graduation in 1916, the end of Sweet Briar's first decade, we met that \$10,000 goal.

The spirit and vivacity, the determination and finesse that hallmarked Sweet Briar's first decade, all were born of and nurtured by the quiet strength that was Mary K. Benedict. The

students knew this and she was much loved by them. It is not easy to analyze their deep affection for her. She was a shy woman, sweet-faced, soft-voiced and very firm. She was everything to every student: president, dean, admissions officer, registrar, advisor, friend. She knew every girl, her background, her problems, her interests. She understood, she listened, she advised, she persuaded. She was imbued with a passionate determination to make Sweet Briar what the Board had called "a liberal arts college of the first rank."

It can be easily understood that at that period, when many girls did not think of going to college in the first place, most serious students would not select a brand-new institution. This was especially true of a college isolated in the country with no body of alumnae back of it, no church or civic backing, no backing of any kind except the devotion of its own people, and with no money.

Many girls came with the idea of enlarging their perspective by spending a year or two in the romantic background of a Southern plantation, a pleasant social life, and by a not-too-strenuous acquisition of knowledge. One will never know how many, under the influence of Miss Benedict, found themselves filled with an eager desire to acquire a college education. Many who applied for entrance were not qualified for college status. Because of this a sub-freshman department was established, known as the Academy. Miss Benedict accepted them into the sub-freshman class and gave them the necessary courses to qualify for college admission.

Miss Benedict lived by herself in Sweet Briar House. She rejected the idea of making Mt. St. Angelo the home of the president. It was too far from the College; it was too big for a lone woman. She chose instead a suite of rooms on the second floor of Sweet Briar House. Her

office was on the first floor of the old house in the beautiful windowed room of the east wing. The office of her secretary, Marion Peele, was in the big room next door. Mr. William Bland Dew, treasurer of the College, had his office in a large room behind Miss Peele's, divided by a counter with an iron grill. There students came to withdraw money—if they had any money. Those three officers constituted the administration. That was all there was.

The post office was also on the first floor of Sweet Briar House. At the opposite end, the two parlors in the west wing remained parlors, filled with furniture, portraits and knick-knacks of the Fletcher and Williams families. These rooms were always open, and the girls were well-acquainted with Daisy's harp, her portrait, the portrait of Elijah Fletcher, the ormolu clock and ornaments on the mantelpiece, the china cat that sat on the hearth and

Graduation, 1914

Daisy's little music box. It stood on the base of one of the beautiful ceiling-high mirrors in the Red Parlor, and, when wound, sweetly tinkled out tunes appropriate for a little girl in the 1870s.

Miss Benedict both lived and worked in Sweet Briar House, but she was very much a part of the life that went on in the College buildings a short distance away. She attended every public event; she was invited to every party; she helped as much as she could with every project and she encouraged every activity. She was the prompter behind the scenes for every dramatic production. She never went to bed at night without making a survey of the buildings to be sure that all was well. As I have said, we loved her, and in that affection there was deep respect and admiration—and a touch of awe. She was a person above us but a part of us, easily accessible, understanding and helpful. She never interfered, but she was never indifferent.

In 1915-16 Miss Benedict, who had worked day and night, winter and summer, who had been all things to all students, who had dreamed and struggled and fought, was tired. She had always wanted to be a physician, and that year she asked the Board to grant her partial leave of absence to take courses at Johns Hopkins. The leave was



granted; all that year she spent several days a week in Baltimore, going and coming by train. She always arrived back at night and was met by students at the station in order to walk back with her to the College. When she requested the same arrangement for the following year, the request was refused, and the Board reached back to a resignation Miss Benedict had submitted two years before over a dispute concerning the lowering of entrance requirements. Miss

Benedict had refused to agree to such a move and indicated that she would resign rather than accept it. She had won that battle, but now the Board took the tentative resignation out of the files and accepted it. When the announcement was made that Miss Benedict was leaving the College and that a new president had been appointed, there was indeed "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." We were all desolated.

In the years to follow, Miss Benedict was to write: "I felt as

I can see that dreams are the stuff that the world is made of, after all...that to start young people off with the power to dream rightly is all important.

—Mary Kendrick Benedict

if I were so apart from the real world, so much born and bred in the academic, that I did not know whether my dreams for Sweet Briar were the right ones or not. I felt the need for contact with life in the working world. Now that I have had it for many years, I can see that dreams are the stuff that the world is made of, after all...that to start young people off with the power to dream rightly is all important."

Those of us at Sweet Briar with Miss Benedict have always felt that her dreams for it *were* the stuff the College was made of, the foundation upon which it was built.

Friendly Strength and Beauty

1916-1926

As my class of 1921 sang our first year:

We are meek and humble freshmen

To Sweet Briar we have come—

We are overawed by the old girls

And the seniors struck us dumb.

I was one of those green, unsophisticated freshmen who stepped off the train in the fall of 1917 at the tiny Sweet Briar station with a crowd of other girls from places as far away as Denver or Rockport or Oconomowoc or as near as Richmond. Believe it or not some of us were accompanied by our mothers (mine among them) who just had to see us settled in college. We were met at the station by the Jewel Box, a tiny omnibus that had to make several trips to campus if there was a crowd getting off the train.

By Edith Durrell Marshall '21

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 75th Anniversary Issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Copy edited for length



Newspapers argued the wisdom of ignoring the great natural laws (of women) and over-stimulating female nervous systems by examinations and prizes.



Many have asked, "How on earth did you girls who came from 38 or more states at that period choose a small, young college located in the Blue Ridge foothills in the Piedmont section of Virginia?" I have asked dozens of my fellow alumnae the same question, "Why Sweet Briar?" and have had a dozen different answers: the low cost of \$450 a year including board and tuition; no entrance examinations; small classes which appealed to girls from large high schools; the College was near home; friends recommended it; or the climate appealed to those, say from Iowa or Colorado. To some the curriculum appealed, or it was near W & L, VMI, UVA, while Princeton, West Point and Annapolis were only a day's

train ride away. Last but not least, some of the midwesterners were drawn by the reputation of the new president, Dr. Emilie Watts McVea.

Miss McVea's predecessor, young Dr. Mary K. Benedict, who had labored during her tenure to make Sweet Briar "a college of the first rank," resigned at the end of the 1915-16 term in order to continue the study of medicine, her early ambition.

Despite her valiant efforts, Miss Benedict was frustrated by the fact that of the 240 students enrolled, less than a third were at college level and each year the College's debt increased. When her resignation was accepted, gloom and consternation enveloped the campus, affecting both students and fac-

ulty. Miss Benedict's warm understanding of youth and her consideration for others had won her universal affection and respect. As a consequence her successor faced an almost hostile student body, which found it difficult to transfer loyalties.

Miss McVea, born in the South, came to Sweet Briar from the University of Cincinnati with a wide reputation for courage, good judgment, and great administrative ability. While in Cincinnati she had been a popular dean of women and associate professor of English. In addition to her university duties, she associated herself with almost every important social movement of the day in Cincinnati: secondary education; child labor; parity of men and women in university

posts; enfranchisement of women. She served as president of the prestigious Cincinnati Women's College Club. As a friend said of her, "An object needed only to appear on the horizon for Emilie to order every sail set." In 1916 an "object" appeared. A young, small college with grave financial problems and a tumultuous student body needed a president.

Time magazine considered this to be an era when women's intellectual capacity was not highly regarded, and only a few were thoroughly prepared to enter college. Newspapers argued the wisdom of ignoring the great natural laws (of women) and over-stimulating female nervous systems by examinations and prizes. Many

One of the girls had a swain who landed his army biplane in the cow pasture to the excitement of the entire countryside.



parents of the day considered one or two years away at school an adequate education.

These were not Emilie Watts McVea's ideas at all. She brought to Sweet Briar a new point of view and a fresh approach. She said, "The work of the past was to establish here in Virginia a first-rate college and the work of the future is to expand."

Not prepossessing in appearance, Miss McVea joked about her lack of ability to wear clothes. She was gracious, warm, and cordial and made the students feel at ease. Gradually she won over the students and faculty, who came to appreciate her understanding of their personal problems. Her generous outgoing personality, humility, and burning desire to bring

Sweet Briar into the family of top colleges with assured futures eventually endeared her to the faculty. She never swerved from her goal.

I still treasure an Easter card she sent to the students: "I would have the graduate of Sweet Briar be a woman strong of body, sincere in thought, clear of vision, using the larger freedom of today but preserving the charm of the women of yesterday...revere scholarship... know the joys of the mind... never be afraid to think...love beauty and above all have faith in God and good in the destiny of mankind."

This was the kind of woman who came to carry on where her predecessor had left off, and she set to work with energy and enthusiasm.

Gradually the curriculum was enriched by additional courses and major fields, the rigid entrance requirements were made flexible; and Miss McVea, a talented speaker, took to the road in search of money and qualified students. She was not highly successful in the first category but had great success in interesting well-prepared students whose goal was unquestionably a college degree; in 1919 the Academy, started in Miss Benedict's time, was closed.

Sweet Briar diplomas from the beginning were accepted for graduate work at Cornell, Yale and Columbia, and in 1920-21 Sweet Briar was welcomed into the family of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and the American Council of Education. In 1921 the AAUW admitted Sweet Briar graduates, and I was proud to be accepted that fall by the Cincinnati chapter.

Other tangible evidences of growth were: the appointment of Dr. Katherine Lummis as first dean and a building program that included Boxwood Inn (1922), several faculty houses on Faculty Row, a residence for kitchen help [Hill House], Fletcher Hall (1925) and the sixth dormitory, Fergus Reid (1925).

Naturally we were affected by national, state, and world affairs but they seemed remote to us on our rural campus. News came only by newspaper, telephone, and telegraph. Radio was in its infancy (headphones and cats' whiskers). We were excited by such things as the resurfacing of the road from Lynchburg to Charlottesville. It was dedicated by cutting a ribbon stretched across the road at Sweet Briar's entrance. The College spent a few precious dollars for a new entrance complete with iron gates. Years later the gates had to be widened to accommodate modern buses. Now they are decorations at the sides.

What was life like on campus? What did we do? Polly Bissell '17 gives a brief sketch. "Life at Sweet Briar before World War I was neither complex nor sophisticated. Rules were strict and included no smoking, no drinking, no card-playing. Even the possession of a deck of cards was forbidden! Lights blinked at 10:20 p.m. and were turned off at the power plant at 10:30. For any infringement of the rules one could be campused. Daily chapel attendance was a must, with only a few cuts permitted. You had to be on time for meals—the Refectory door was locked ten minutes after the bell rang for meals. Sometimes you could make a sandwich from a



The College spent a few precious dollars for a new entrance complete with iron gates. Years later the gates had to be widened to accommodate modern buses. Now they are decorations at the sides.



biscuit and piece of bacon for a lazy roommate who missed breakfast. This may sound dull but we were accustomed to discipline at home, and we made our own fun as few left campus on weekends. Class fights with classes above and below were

staged in competition to fly our class banner higher than the others. It was a triumph when we could fly it above the Refectory, the highest point on campus.
"On Thanksgiving morning the Lynchburg Hunt Club,

headed by Mr. Martindale in his red coat, led the hounds across Sweet Briar fields in pursuit of the fox. It was an exciting morning, especially for those few girls expert enough horse-women to be permitted to join the Hunt. Luncheon followed in

the Refectory."

The George Walker family lived at Mt. St. Angelo, the house built for Indiana Williams' sister Elizabeth Mosby. An English family, they welcomed us to English tea and tiny cookies, patties filled with sausage and cinnamon toast made with bacon drippings. Such delights were prepared each week for students who walked across the railroad tracks, through the fields and over the stile. The family, 12-strong, appeared at the College's church service each Sunday, led by Dr. Walker, tall and stately, and Mrs. Walker in her tiny white cap, followed by her sister Aunt Kitty. Each Thanksgiving the Walkers gave a party for the entire College. Dr. Walker built a huge bonfire, around which the girls danced and sang, then went into the house for refreshments.

Then came World War I, which was "to save the world for democracy." Actually, life on campus did not change radically. Yet this war was of deep significance and in time caused a wide-spread shift in attitudes toward women and women's attitudes toward themselves. Florence Ives '21 writes: "I have been thinking of the imprint that the war had on us...we used to go down to that lone edifice, the Sweet Briar station, and watch the troop trains for Camp Petersburg



1919 Field Hockey team

come slowly up the grade with boys in uniform hanging out of the window and giving us giggling girls the wolf call. We could almost touch their outstretched hands as the engine lost steam going up the grade. They were so young, so full of laughter, but on our trek back to campus we wondered, 'Would they come back home and would they be whole?' "

We had plenty of food, like it or not, but sugar was short. We were warm though coal was

scarce. Sweet Briar dairy provided us with milk and cream; the apple orchards were loaded with fruit. Professor Josephine Simrall taught a course on war psychology which I was allowed to take as a more mature lowerclassman. I can feel the scorn now of my upper-class roommate at my naivete in matters of soldiers' sex problems. There was growth that year among the innocent! We organized a Red Cross, rolled bandages, knitted socks and sweaters by the dozen and packed kit bags for our boys.

One of the girls had a swain who landed his army biplane in the cow pasture to the excitement of the entire countryside. We wrote letters to our beaux and as a patriotic duty, even to men we did not know. The linen room in Gray was the spot where we picked up our mail and answered calls on the one telephone for all dormitories. We sang "Over There" and "Tipperary."

Then came the killer influenza pandemic. We were campused for almost one year. No one left campus

except for an emergency. Dr. Mary Harley, bless her heart, watched us like a mother hen.

She stood at the foot of the stairs in Academic each morning and yanked up our skirts to see if we were wearing panties. No panties: back to the dorm to put some on. She grabbed us indiscriminately on campus and made us stick out our tongues to see if our throats were red. We took care of each other in our rooms, the infirmary overflowed. We held prayer meetings in Senior Study; we prayed especially for one girl who nearly died of pneumonia. She lived. Dr. Harley did not lose a single person on campus when thousands were dying across the country. When we were released to go home at Christmas, Miss McVea gave us stern orders to wear veils closely tied over our faces and never to take off our gloves until we reached home!

During the war the Sweet Briar community contributed \$10,000 to the United Fund Drive and \$19,500 for the Red Cross and Student Friendship Fund. Most donations came from slender allowances (mine was \$5 a month) and from profits made selling sandwiches, Hershey bars, and cake slices begged from the College kitchen.

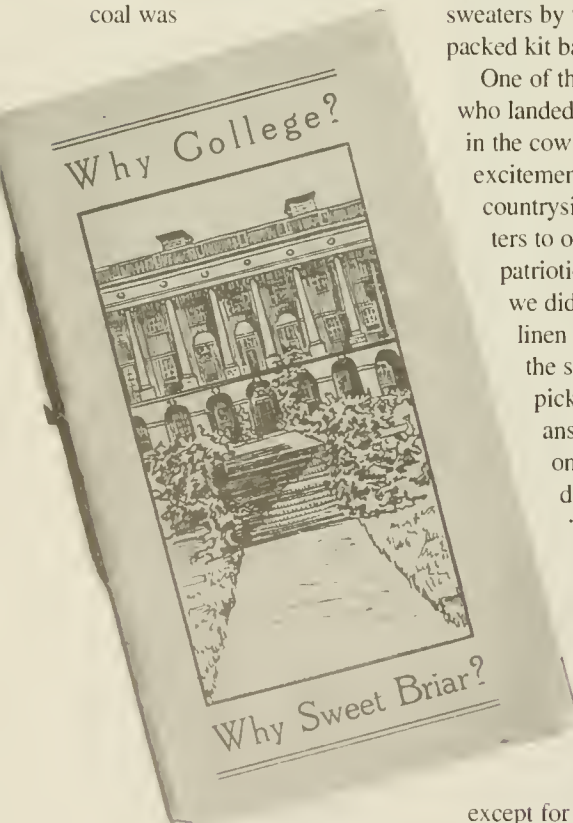
Classes went on as usual. Plays were given—The Ripplers and The Merry Jesters outdid themselves. One final play was unforgettable: Percy McKaye's *A Thousand Years*

Ago. It was held in Sweet Briar gardens at dusk among the boxwoods and apple trees and smoke trees at the height of their glory. There was a full moon and a heaven full of stars for a canopy.

Then there was *Bluff*, a musical comedy. When Helen Beeson '20 and Russee Blanks '21 danced the Galli-Curci Rag, accompanied on the piano by ragtime queen Flo Freeman '19, they brought down the house.

The *Briar Patch* came out each spring, printed by J.P. Bell Co., Lynchburg. We hounded Lynchburg businesses and our parents for advertisements to help defray expenses. The *Sweet Briar Magazine* was a serious literary effort. The YWCA published the *Handbook*, which listed all rules and regulations so that students could not unknowingly go wrong. The administration issued a *Student Directory*.

Sports were always a big thing. Sister classes vied with each other in basketball and field hockey. An hour of exercise daily was required and a report was filed. In retrospect we could have been glamorous in our white middie blouses, headbands, and heavy serge bloomers. On Field Day we valiantly dashed and jumped, trying to break College records. Lake Day was fun. We raced our heavy rowboats (canoes came later), and swam right



1918 Admissions brochure



Lillias Shepherd '22

down to the dam. Ellen Wolfe '21 made it one year in eight minutes, 32 1/2 seconds.

A few girls brought horses to college but the rest of us had to be satisfied with the horses rented from the Amherst livery stables. Miss Eugenie Morenus, a math teacher, was a familiar figure on her horse "Dolly." She often chaperoned girls on long rides. I recall one memorable ride with her to High Peak.

Founders' Day in October honored the Williams and Fletcher families. Robed by freshmen, seniors wore their caps and gowns for the first time. To the strains of "Ancient of Days," they solemnly marched to the chapel in Manson to hear a talk by an eminent speaker and another by Mr. Manson, who annually related stories about Sweet Briar's founding family.

Even during the war, Founders' Day prom took place in the Refectory; "Dardanella" was a favorite dance tune. At the stroke of midnight, the

music stopped dead: the boys had to leave. Some had to sleep in the station, waiting for the next train.

Florence Ives continues her comments, "Yet there was a serious vein under all our outward gaiety. We were growing in our concept of the meaning of our lives and our development as persons. Sweet Briar encouraged us to place emphasis on things that mattered. President McVea's chapel talks were of great beauty, and Mrs. Worthington's study class on Harry Emerson Fosdick's "Meaning of Prayer" left an indelible impression. We were not completely isolated. Outstanding lecturers of national standing and superb musicians were brought to campus. The voice of Rosa Ponselle and the violin of young Yehudi Menuhin thrilled and charmed us. One year we had a poet-in-residence, Australian Tom Skeyhill; we thought him very glamorous.

"Many campus rules of that

day seem petty to us today and irked us even then; yet in retrospect the rightness of the College program was like the friendly strength and beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains beyond the lake. We were steered toward fine ideals and will never forget the inspiration we received from the finest faculty we could have had anywhere."

November 9, 1918: the firebells rang—we all dashed to the Quadrangle. There was Miss McVea standing on the running board of a Model T Ford. In a vigorous voice she announced, "Armistice! The war is over! Peace reigns!"

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We thought nothing of walking three miles to Amherst and three miles back, for waffles or cake at the Robinson house or for chicken dinners at Mrs. Wills'



Isolated as we were with no radios or TV, we did not know until four days later that November 9 was a false report, that the actual signing was November 11, 1918.

One of my most unforgettable memories of the war's end came during a spring vacation at Old Point Comfort with my family. We learned that a contingent of Cincinnati troops was to land at Newport News. With several other Cincinnati girls (and my Uncle John as chapter-

one), we met the ship at the dock. What a tired, dirty bunch of boys, so glad to be back and so glad to see girls from home. They had a five-mile march to their camp, and we marched and talked to them the whole way. I still have a picture to prove it.

Jane Becker '25 said to me one day when I was trying to pick her memory, "One hears of gazing into a crystal ball to glimpse the future. How about looking at it in reverse? Peer

backwards for flashbacks of events in our lives at Sweet Briar when we were young." Taking her advice:

- October 1917. The great *aurora borealis* that illuminated the entire northern hemisphere.

In Carson and Manson we hung out of windows all night, fascinated by the beauty of that spectacular display of undulating streams of colored light flashing into the heavens from behind the Blue Ridge.

- The frigid winter of 1917 when the lake froze over and we sent home for ice skates. Mine are still at the bottom of the lake where an inexperienced girl from the South dropped them.

- What fun sliding down the dell slopes on trays borrowed from the Refectory.

- When spring came: taking swimming tests in the "Pen" before being allowed in deep water. Lucky we were not dragged to the bottom and drowned in our thick bathing suits—shirts, bloomers and long black stockings.

- Step-singing with the seniors on the Golden Stairs.

- Picking apples along Sunset Road on crisp October days.

- Walking to the monument through woods brilliant with autumn colors and wearing silly white aprons and pigtailed with green bows, the freshman insignia.

- Having to sign up for the bathtub (only one tub on each floor).

- Seeing Romeo, the night watchman, clomping through the halls with his lantern swinging.

We thought nothing of walking three miles to Amherst and three miles back, for waffles or cake at the Robinson house or for chicken dinners at Mrs. Wills'. There was buggy-dashing from Amherst in an antique vehicle pulled by a reluctant plug from the stable. After a rare snow we might ride back to campus in a wooden sleigh with bells. In Amherst, remember the black woman who sold our old clothes for us when our allowances ran out? And tiny Hairpin, who danced jigs in the dusty street for pennies? Recall those few girls who were expelled for smoking? Don't forget the boxes from home. My mother sent delicious mince pies, which lasted exactly five minutes after the box came.

Who can forget the pink azaleas along the lake? And those Cash woven name tapes? The six a.m. train to Lynchburg which during the war, slowed down at the SBC station so that we could hop on? They said they were saving coal. No stores were open at the ungodly hour of our arrival in town, so we went to the YWCA for breakfast or to the Virginian



Sweet Briar scenes
from the early 1920s

Hotel where for 75 cents we had fruit, cereal, toast, bacon, coffee and fingerbowls. Craighill and Jones' Drug Store kept a bulletin board for our messages. We always wore hats to town. Once I bought an elegant hat with the back flipped up and pink roses sewed beneath the brim.

D. B. Ryland was the jeweler who sold us our class rings. At that time four different shanks were used, each one featuring a class mascot. One used a peacock (Miss Indie's peacock strutted in the gardens for years); a swan decorated another (swans were in the lake for a long time); the great oak was displayed on the third shank, and the fourth showed the columns of Academic. The stones in the rings were lapis lazuli, green jade, black onyx and amethyst. The Sweet Briar seal was carved into each stone.

Back to the crystal ball:

We see the Refectory on the night of Robert E. Lee's birthday, when the girls from the South stood and sang "Dixie"; the girls from the North sang "Yankee Doodle." The faculty then sang the "Star Spangled Banner": peace reigned.

How excited we were when our hockey team won the Virginia championship and the team's picture was in the *NY Times* rotogravure. One of the girls received 50 fan letters—from men! Remember the

thump-thump of our trunks banging down the dorm steps, meaning we were going home? And at dawn on the day we left for Christmas, the Glee Club and Choir waking us with Christmas carols, and fastening to our coats the bits of mistletoe that Betty Cole '21 had shot down from the trees with her .22 rifle?

Then came the Roaring Twenties. Changing mores were reflected on campus in relaxation of some old restraints. Bromleys (middy suits) were out, and puffed-out hairdos and high-laced shoes; shorter hair, rolled stockings, ripple-tailed sweaters, teddies and shorter skirts were in. We sang "Whispering" and "Araby" and danced cheek-to-cheek. We read Edna St. Vincent Millay and Sinclair Lewis. Women's attitudes toward education were changing. Many more stayed to graduate instead of being "finished" in two years. We were encouraged to go home after graduation and work for civic betterment in our communities. Miss McVea went so far as to suggest making provision for smoking. "It's coming," she said. But the faculty said, "No! No! No!"

A drive for more endowment in 1920 was disappointing: \$95,000 was raised instead of the million hoped for. By 1925 enrollment had reached 450.

To Dr. Mary Harley's joy,



the infirmary into which she had poured heart and soul, was completed. She had long planned to have the last word in equipment and decoration. Several parents, grateful for the care of their daughters, aided generously in making her dreams come true.

The Yellow Peril, a large omnibus for meeting trains, was purchased, manned by Bus Rhea, a jolly, likable individual.

Now out of uniform, men were flocking back to campus; informal dancing in the gym Saturday nights livened weekends.

Dr. Will Walker often drove a car full of girls over the awful, twisting mountain road to Lexington for hops at VMI and dances at W&L. Still properly chaperoned, the girls stayed overnight in accredited boarding houses operated by genteel



ladies in reduced circumstances.

Miss McVea said she had little to regret about the conduct of Sweet Briar students and credited it to the College Council as well as to the growing maturity of the students themselves. In 1921 women got the vote. By absentee ballot, I voted for Warren G. Harding. (Sorry that he did not live up to our expectations.) Mr. Martindale notarized my ballot and when he found out for whom I had voted commented that had he known I was a Republican he would not have notarized my ballot!

Prohibition had come in and Sweet Briar debated Randolph-Macon on the subject. I forgot which side we took, but we won. Dr. Ivan MacDougall, the redheaded fireball sociology and economics professor, kept

the girls' interest at high pitch in the International Relations Club. He wangled a grant from the Carnegie Foundation to pay for outstanding speakers at Sweet Briar.

The first foreign student, Antoinette Malet '20 arrived from France and soon after Yelena Grigitsch from Yugoslavia. They were forerunners of many foreign students coming to the College.

The College's influence was becoming felt in the area more and more. Students participated in activities at the Indian Mission, where they taught and played games with children of mixed blood, Indian, Negro, and white, whose forebears had settled in the mountains long before the Revolution.

Miss McVea, believing that Town and Gown should not be

separated, decided that it was time that the twain should meet. She became a member of the Amherst County Council of Safety. She organized a current events club among the women of the County. In 1922 she initiated Amherst County Day, inviting the entire county population to visit campus for games, oratory and refreshments. It was a big success and continued at Sweet Briar until 1974 when it was taken over by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. The day included cattle judging, flower shows, jousting tournaments, and programs on child care and public health.

I would be remiss not to include one of the highlights of this era, May Day. The prettiest, most popular (and brainiest) senior was elected by popular vote to be May Queen. Elegantly gowned, she and her Court walked with dignity across the Boxwood Circle to be seated on a flower-decorated platform facing Sweet Briar House. They were entertained by music and a maypole dance with girls properly dressed (in crepe paper) for the event. Heaven forbid that it rain! Being transferred to the Refectory would spoil it all! From the Boxwood Circle the Court and audience trailed to the West Dell and sat on the lawn to be further entertained by a pageant.

Each year the girls' gowns were different, of silks and satins (organdy during the war years). Each year a different pageant was given, beginning with the first one in 1907. One year it was Elizabethan; one year Milton's *L'Allegro* was adapted by Professor Simrall; and Miss Sparrow of the history department wrote *The Virginia Woods*. Players and barefoot dancers in flowing chiffon tip-toed through the little stream that flows through the Dell.

That night was The Dance, all formal with dance cards and dangling pencils. Dance figures were led by the May Queen and her Court. It was a thrilling affair for those who attended but not for those who wistfully watched from the balcony because they had no swains to take them.

Miss McVea, never strong physically, was forced by ill health to resign in 1924. She returned to North Carolina, where she had lived as a child and young woman. She died in 1928.

I feel it fitting to end this with a brief mention of a few of those people who so influenced our lives, those faculty and staff we recall with much love and affection.

There were the William Dews, College treasurer and friend for 36 years—Mrs. Dew warmly welcomed us to their home and we all loved Polly

Then came the Roaring Twenties. Changing mores were reflected on campus in relaxation of some old restraints. Bromlers (middy suits) were out, and puffed-out hairdos and high-laced shoes; shorter hair, rolled stockings, ripple-tailed sweaters, teddies and shorter skirts were in.



Carey and Billy, their children; Hugh Worthington, belovedly called Pop, tall and lanky, who labored with us through French, and Mrs. Worthington who added to our spiritual welfare with her classes on prayer; Dr. Thomas, the College chaplain; the inimitable Elizabeth Czarnomska, eccentric, brilliant and a rare teacher. It was she who secretly gathered a few of the outstanding upperclass pupils together and formed a secret society, Tau Phi. Her intention was that it would be the nucleus for Phi Beta Kappa,

which she was positive eventually would come to Sweet Briar. Sororities had been rejected but there were cliques here and there, composed particularly by girls on the same hall.

There were the Crawfords (not related): Miss Carolyn, who taught us to sing, and Miss Lucy, whose quotes are in *The Best of Lucifer*; Miss Cara Gascoigne, the English coach who trained our celebrated hockey team; Ruth Howland, beloved by biology majors; Miss Gay Patteson; Leonora Neuffer, who persuaded me to

major in chemistry (marvelous teacher). Dorothy Wallace '19 received her background for a career in chemistry at Sweet Briar and became a teacher and scientist. She was one who worked on the atomic bomb project at Stagg Field, Chicago. She wrote, "Sweet Briar gave me a foundation for happy living with my work as well as my pleasure. Sweet Briar made my life so rich."

So as the song goes:

*Those were the days
my friend,
We thought they'd never end,
We'd sing and dance forever
and a day.
We'd live the life we'd choose,
We'd fight and never lose,
For we were young and
Sure to have our way!*

Those were the days, my friends. And to sum it up, "We've come a long way, baby!"

progress and prestige

1926-1936

If I had to find two words which summed up the dominant influence on the decade 1926-1936, it would be Meta Glass. She became Sweet Briar's third president in July 1925 at a time when the world was plunging in and out of drastic moods. For the first few years, there was tension and frenzy to get rich quick, rise to the top, buy stocks on margin, dance the Charleston, circumvent Prohibition at the peephole in a speakeasy door. It was the time of Clara Bow and F. Scott Fitzgerald, the age of the flapper and the tycoon.

By Julia Sadler deColigny '34

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 Anniversary Issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Copy edited for length





Dr. Meta Glass, 1934

enable students to remain in college. It took only a short time to adjust to the idea, and waitress jobs remained popular.

Seldom was mention made in print on campus of the economic condition of the country. We were all living it, so why talk about it? But an editorial by Charlotte Magoffin '32 on January 14, 1932, entitled HAPPY NEW YEAR! gives a clue:

Experts tell us repeatedly that the crisis of the depression will be reached in 1932, and the tide will turn upward. When we hear this, we wonder how conditions can become any worse than they are, and wait idly for the eventful day when we can be told that the bottom has been reached.

That bottom was not reached for more than a year—after Herbert Hoover had been defeated and Franklin D. Roosevelt had ushered in The New Deal. To celebrate Roosevelt's victory

there was a torchlight parade on campus, and over 200 left campus to attend his inauguration. One of the first acts of his administration furnished the bottom we were looking for. On March 6, 1933, a bank holiday was declared, and what assets families had left after The Crash were frozen instantaneously, leaving them without cash for groceries.

Other major events in the news had their impact on our thinking in those days: Charles Lindbergh, having accomplished the remarkable feat of crossing the Atlantic alone on May 20, 1927, in his "Spirit of St. Louis," was an important hero of our time. His shy and modest ways, his courtship and marriage to Anne Morrow, and the birth of their first child provided us with a good, clean, positive model in sharp contrast to gangsters such as Al Capone and John Dillinger. No literate person was spared the horror, out-

The spiral of materialism spun right into the crash of '29, when fortunes were lost overnight; men leaped from skyscraper windows, and the bewildered world was plunged into the deepest depression this country has ever known. Stock losses between 1929 and 1931 amounted to \$51 billion. There were no jobs: Ph.D.s were going around threadbare at the elbows, selling pencils or apples on the street. Some of us who were of limited resources from the start hardly noticed, but others had to learn to live all over again. The call of "sanichez" reverberated through the dorms at the 10:00-10:30 Quiet Hour break; shampoos and finger waves, we called them, were given at 25 cents per head (bring your own soap and towel); hems were put in for a

price; vacations were spent on campus (which proved to be some of the best times) and we would do almost anything to remain in college. Even so, some couldn't make it and either dropped out entirely or took a semester or so at State U. and came back to finish.

Fees were raised from \$800 to \$1,000, apologetically and with the understanding that if one had entered at the lower fee and it worked a hardship, she could complete her education at the lower figure. It was announced in the April 20, 1932 *Sweet Briar News* that 20 student waitress jobs would be available in Reid, for the first time ever. There was apprehension about taking employment from the mountain girls who lived in Hill House, but the decision was made in an effort to



An outing in 1927

Campus Life

By Sally Shallenberger '32
(Sara Shallenberger Brown)

Reprinted from the December 1931 Alumnae Magazine

Campus life—it begins with the familiar but always startling laundry whistle and ends with the 10:30 bell. Between dawn and the time Mr. Beard goes around collecting mail and stray bits of information on our nightlife, the interests of students lead them into different types of campus activity.

There are two places which figure in the daily existence of every girl—the dell and the post office, unless she is confined by illness in the luxury of Dr.

Harley's infirmary. The alluring nature of the post office is as obvious as it is eternal. Even the spaciousness of the new building does not prevent a mob scene when the mail is put up. But the attraction of the dell is not limited to any particular time. Whether the temperature calls for summer dresses or raccoon coats, whether classes are in session or not, the dell is never without its clusters of girls who sit about, cigarette in hand, discussing everything from a dreaded quiz or an anticipated weekend, to Kant's categorical imperative. The dell has become the successor to Bus Rhea's for discussions as well as smoking. Two years ago the charm of the little old smoke-filled barn with its atmosphere of intimacy and its iron stove around which we huddled on cold afternoons was worth walking the advertised mile.

The Boxwood Inn is next in rank of those places where an observer may take a strategic position to behold campus life. The Depression has not decreased the number of morning dissipaters spending time over coca-colas and cookies. The Tea House temptation is as strong as ever to the exhausted bloomer-clad procession that straggles up the hill from the lower hockey field in the afternoons. The Inn continues to be the scene of teas with one's favorite teachers and of surprise birthday parties. Somehow that Boxwood specialty, chicken and waffles, is still an enticing prospect.

Strangers often ask in disparaging tones what on earth we find to do at a college "way out in the country." At Sweet

Briar our isolated campus affords a means of self-expression for every girl. The nature addicts have round them the constantly changing panorama of the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Those whose athletic tendencies are limited to walking have on innumerable choice of little hidden paths through the pine forests, over rustic stiles and Virginia rail fences. The even less energetic exercisers find satisfaction in the windy road to the orchard. The bookworm is equally well provided for. She can spend her

spare time in the Browsing Room. Even those truant readers are better acquainted with the interior of the reading room than with any other part of the library, for, contrary to the opinion of outsiders who are impressed only by the name "Sweet Briar" and its suggestion of pastoral insouciance, the library is the most frequented building on campus.

On weekends, it is true, our propensity to study is not so obvious. Both students and campus discard their rural simplicity for a few signs of metropolitanism. High heels and stockings replace the usual socks and tie-oxfords; many roadsters, some long and racy, others not so long and not at all racy—file through

the gates past Mr. Beard's faultless vision. The polo-coated passengers from nearby institutions of masculine education disembark, and each, accompanied by a Sweet Briar girl, form an endless Big Parade between the Quadrangle and the old oak tree when the weekly gym in the Common Room is over.

Shortly after the 10:30 bell, when the roar of the departing cars has subsided, the quiet is disturbed only by a few faint sounds from the radios of the Guy Lombardo fans and by a hushed murmur of voices engaged in some all-important bull session. A circle of friends—a difference of opinions—the first experiences of defending one's own ideas—all lead to decisions that mold our characters into what we are now and more important, into what we will be after we have scattered.





**Left, the old library in what became the Music Box.
Below, Mary Helen Cochran Library under construction, 1929**



rage, shock, and grief when the country was electrified with the news that the Lindbergh baby had been kidnapped from his crib on March 1, 1932, and found dead on May 12. Our campus was no exception.

Since we were not surfeited with news coverage every hour of the day as we are today, only a few other events stand out: the birth of the Dionne Quintuplets on May 28, 1934, in Callender, Ontario, and all the ministrations of Dr. Dafoe; the death of Will Rogers in a plane crash with Wiley Post in Alaska on August 15, 1935; the abdication of Edward VIII on December 11, 1936, "for the woman I love."

Before the decade was out we realized that the teaching of the German language had suddenly claimed major attention. Irene Huber joined our faculty, and with customary Germanic vigor and enthusiasm, started off with explanations of what was

happening to the youth of Germany under the inspired leadership of a young man named Adolf Hitler. He was cleaning up the streets, giving youth a program of purposefulness and physical fitness. She had just returned from a summer in her homeland, and was highly enthusiastic. She taught us all to pronounce that wonderfully expressive and guttural language by having us sing German songs. The best one for her purposes, she said, was the Horst Wessel song, "Die Fahne Hoch, die Reihen sind gestossen." Neither the words nor the tune are as finely etched on my memory as they were some 40 years ago, but they are still there, and I remember how we sprayed each other in our enthusiasm for perfect pronunciation. We watched her loyalty and fire change from complete confidence to doubt to horridification over what the Hitler Youth Movement became,

a maniacal nightmare.

All our world, though not at war, was in the midst of a rather hysterical peace, followed by a hopeless depression when respectable well-educated men went on relief or were thankful to get jobs in one of those alphabetical agencies which sprang up, like the WPA, NRA, CCC—and women were glad enough to stay home and cook, if they just had something to cook.

This was our world during the first ten years of Miss Glass' presidency. As an educational institution Sweet Briar had been making steady progress for 20 years under Miss Benedict and Miss McVea. There was justifiable pride in the miraculous achievements of the founders and first leaders under seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but now it was ready to take a position in the forefront of women's education. In spite of the luxurious appearance which had firmly fixed the "finishing school" image, Sweet Briar had very little endowment, which made it even more difficult for Miss Glass to progress along the lines of academic excellence which she had in mind. The lifestyle, the surroundings, and a feeling of community were in her favor, but the strongest thing she had going for her was the bearing of the lady herself. She was always a presence, and her stately being dominated the campus from the first. If you were not privileged

to merit her approval, at least you quickly learned to try to avoid her derision. She was omnipresent. She was in charge. Whether conducting church services, speaking at convocation, conferring with a faculty member about an academic program, discussing disciplinary measures with student government leaders, having dinner at the faculty table in the Refectory, reading stories in the Browsing Room in Negro and mountain dialects, or just swinging her cane as she walked with her Irish setter, Red, from Fletcher to Sweet Briar House, no one had any doubt where she stood, and it was a challenge to be in her proximity. There was nothing casual about Meta Glass. The Class of '26 dedicated the *Briar Patch* to her for their pride in her being our president and their confidence in what she would do for the College.

She did not fail them. She brought us prestige at home and abroad. She was president of the Association of Virginia Colleges. She was national president of the American Association of University Women and on numerous boards and committees of national and international import. The Southern Association of Colleges threatened to withdraw our accreditation because of our limited endowment, so there was an all-out campaign with a



May Day, 1935

national director of publicity. After struggling with and getting remarkably good response to the campaign, it was calculated that upon payment of debts we had already incurred for Reid dormitory and four stucco faculty houses on the pasture side of Faculty Row, we could show only \$87,900 in assets acceptable to the Southern Association toward the \$800,000 we needed. The announcement of those grim facts was made to the Board on the eve of the stock market crash in '29. Perhaps we were saved by everybody's dilemma.

With insufficient endowment and little chance to improve it, it was felt that the preservation of a strong teaching faculty must take precedence over the repair-

ing of gutters. It is a tribute to the teamwork of Miss Glass and Dean Emily Dutton that of the score of strong faculty appointments made during that time, 18 stayed on to retirement. They instituted the study-abroad programs, interdepartmental majors, the team-taught course Classical Civilization and reading for honors.

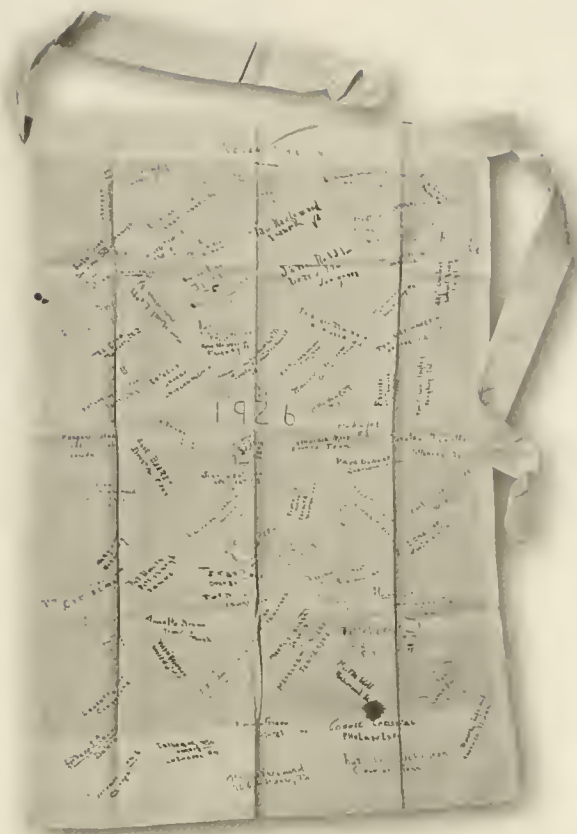
Our beautiful, brilliant Edith Railey '32 was the first to enroll in the Foreign Study Plan of the University of Delaware and wrote to Pop Worthington that she had never before known what work was—18 hours per day just trying to keep up. She said they had put her in the top group by mistake, but when her year at the Sorbonne was over she was still there and it was no

mistake. The following year Dorothy Brett, Isabel Wade, Gail Shepard and Langhorne Watts [all Class of '33] were enrolled under the Delaware Plan and we became regular participants. Our first exchange with St. Andrews University in Scotland began with Mary Walton McCandlish, Alice Shirley and Katharine Williams [all Class of '34] in 1932-33. That same year Delia Ann Taylor '34 was the first to study in Germany. Marcia Patterson '32 in Latin and Edith Railey in French were the first to read for honors. I will never forget Jean Myers '34 and my pioneering in comps in our chosen fields of interrelation in Revolution and Romanticism, a wonderful opportunity to conceptualize but a little awkward

to insert in the blanks on grad school applications. We took our exams in Salvo Mangiafico's living room in Garden Cottage.

Fortunately, because the College was not getting its money from income endowment investment, we did not suffer immediately from the depression, except that it was hard to get cash from those who did! Because we had acquired prestige without charging commensurate fees, during the worst years of the depression we had record-breaking applications and admissions. The fall of 1930 we admitted 209 new students, having processed 770 applications. Counting on many we accepted not taking their places, we were forced to use every bed in walking distance of campus for the

Freshman apron, 1926



freshmen (Ma Jordan's, the Blackwells', the Worthington's, the Ramages' and Sweet Briar House) because they fooled us and came. But that class was a victim of the bank holiday; only 68 graduated. Not only were applicants plentiful, they were smart. In the first ACE testing of sophomores, Sweet Briar showed the highest percentiles of women's colleges in the South and among the top ten in the nation. We consistently remained above the 70th percentile nationally. Brains were not what we felt we needed most. I remember a funereal procession around the Refectory when the Class of '34 displayed a banner "The Class of Brains Without Beauty." But we munched along, and most of us married and begat!

Miss Glass had never meant to launch a building program, but that's where she found herself even when finances were at their tightest. In 1927 Sweet Briar House caught fire, and expensive damages had to be repaired.

It was thanks to a gift from the Carnegie Corporation and the generosity of Board member Fergus Reid that the library was built, named to honor Mr. Reid's mother, Mary Helen Cochran.

There was a total of 20,000 volumes in the library's possession when it was housed in the little wooden building destined to become next The Music Box

and then faculty apartments. Books were scattered in five different departments and there was hardly room for users to sit down in the main library. The number had increased to 30,000 by the time they moved into the new building in September 1928 and by 1935, the number had grown to 40,000 (less than one-fourth of the 165,000 our library has in 1976).

It was thanks to the efforts of students to raise money for a gymnasium, going on since 1923, that \$82,000 was collected for the Daisy Williams Gymnasium. The cornerstone was laid in June 1931 with Daisy's playmate Signora Hollins and Miss Glass' niece and editor of *Daisy's Diary*, Margaret Banister '16, participating. At that time, the *News* carried a plea that if the \$20,000 in pledges could be collected they could go ahead and add the swimming pool.

Thanks to the splendid efforts of Jessie Fraser, professor of history and chairman of the Book Shop Committee of the Faculty, the new facility housing the Book Shop, post office and four faculty apartments was built across the road from Boxwood Inn, completely paid for and supported by the apartment rentals. All this was in addition to money provided for an annual prize for the best student book collection and a Book Shop Scholarship Loan Fund.

The frame garages on up Elijah Road from The Music Box were built during that time with no faint hint that later they would house the nursery school and the education department.

This was the decade when things got so grim in the outside world that we had to learn to laugh at ourselves and make the most of being where we were. The faculty did a great deal to make us feel close. The week

could easily be filled by going to faculty At Homes. Tuesday was the day claimed by President Glass: when she was fairly new in her job she even sent out handwritten cards. Later her invitation was carried in the *News*. Harriet Rogers and Lucy Crawford at Red Top were joined briefly by Dora Neill Raymond, and their Thursday afternoons were the source of great joy, both gustatory and cerebral, for many years. The Barkers, Joe and Jeanne, claimed Fridays to the delight and comfort of students not only of French but of other disciplines as well. And many more opened their hearts and homes to students on a less regular basis.

It gradually developed that every good and serious effort had its counterpart in something ridiculous. For Paint and Patches there sprang into being the Aints and Asses for the sole purpose of consoling those who tried out but didn't succeed in getting into Paint and Patches, but could be clever enough to create and execute takeoffs on P&P's serious dramatic productions. An example of this was a hysterical rendition (we thought) of "Seize Her and Pat by O Pshaw!", following on the heels of a fine production of Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*. After P&P's creditable production of *King Argimines and the Unknown Warrior*, Aints and Asses gave "Agar Agar and Mr. X." These

Chemistry lab, 1935



takeoffs became so popular that Paint and Patches made the Aints and Asses schedule their performances so that they were free to see them.

For a long time Tau Phi was the only honorary society. Invitation to its membership was based on academic achievement, plus a general overall concern for the cultural and intellectual atmosphere on campus. They had a full program. They had a regular column in the *Sweet Briar News* with a book review or discussion on some weighty subject; they held meetings before major concerts or lectures to enlighten the prospective audience on the program or subject of the lecture; they ushered at special events in the chapel, and they sponsored readings in the Browsing Room on Sunday nights. On initiation night they paraded through the halls intoning their Latin chant: *Summus Philosophus hominum*. This got to be a little heavy for the average populace, so into this stately procession burst the Chung Mungs wrapped in their white sheets, bringing chaos into those solemn ranks. They were chosen for their frolicsome natures; their main purpose was to heckle the Tau Phis.

The May Queen and her Court held sway the first week-end in May, come rain or shine, but it was on May 8, 1930, that the first Dismay Court took place. While the May Queen and

her honor girls, the Maid of Honor, the Garland Bearer, the Scepter Bearer, the Queen's Page and the Heralds went about their appointed tasks with thought of nothing but grace and beauty, the Dismay Queen with such notables in the role as Unk Magruder '32, Sallie Flint '35, and Alice Benet '36, and her maids of Dishonor, including the Garbage Bearer, the Receptacle Bearer, the Queen's Rage and the Perils, had but one thought in mind: to ridicule. May Day Pageants for the Queen became increasingly complicated, culminating in *Bird Sanctuary*, a masque by Visiting Professor Percy MacKaye. In due course, the Dismay Court found it an ideal target for their wit and named their next pageant: *Sanctuary Much!*

Class shows were an institution by the '30s. The freshmen spent the first six weeks reciting the names of seniors alphabetically on demand (I still remember Anderson, Anderson, Bikle, Boyle....), wearing their aprons and beads and having to appear before the ominous black-robed Interclass Council if they made a misstep. When hazing was abolished in 1931, they still had a period of six weeks of orientation culminating in the circus and fashion show.

In November 1929, it was announced that the calendar was too full: the seniors would give up their play; the juniors would

keep both the play and the show and the sophomores would keep only the show. Of course, these were original and their success depended on the courage and daring of their scriptwriters to poke fun at themselves, other students and the faculty.

The *Sweet Briar News* (which first appeared on October 5, 1927) provided the most important channel of communication on campus. It published the calendar of campus events, current news from alumnae, guest lists for Boxwood Inn, which served as a country inn year-round, Betty the Briarite columns, Tau Phi editorials, reportage, and critiques of campus events. After only a year and a half the *News* became associated with the National Student Press Association, and its ratings made steady progress. In November 1934 it was given First Class Honor Rating by the Department of Journalism at the University of Minnesota. Its editors took its purposes seriously, but even so it had its spoof editions. Sometimes it was printed on blue paper during midwinter exams. In the box at the top, in large letters: "All the Blues Unfit to Print." Another year, a spoof edition in black and white appearing in early March had in the same box "No Noose is

Good Noose." Each time the editors had their favorites to pick on: Birdie Sparrow, Emily Dutton, Willa Young, Curly Connor, Dexter Bennett. It was a great compliment to be the target of the students' arrows, and it made for delicious camaraderie.

The caliber of campus events was amazing considering our small student body, our relative isolation, and the economy in general. During that entire decade the Committee on Lectures and Music was chaired by Miriam H. Weaver. She worked tirelessly with agents, printers, artists, and scholars to offer for committee approval the maximum of highly intellectual and cultural programs for the minimum expenditure of cash. Sometimes fur flew to accomplish her purposes, but I remember that the chapel was always well filled and there was a real battle not to have to sit behind posts. A random selection of some of the programs during that time includes: The English Singers, the Jitney Players, the Curtis String Quartet, Dame Myra Hess, Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Sinfonietta, Bertrand Russell, Chinese Princess der Ling, the Roth Quartet, Bruce Simonds, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, the Westminster Choir, Doris



The Tally-Ho, 1935

Blackwells' camp over near Coolwell. In December 1931 the Blackwells gave a big barn dance with cider and doughnuts and a black orchestra to celebrate the opening of the new stables. Later Pop got a Tally-ho, and advertised that parties of ten with a driver could go for a ride over the mountains at \$1.00 apiece in daylight or \$1.50 apiece in moonlight. This imposing vehicle was drawn by a pair of fine horses.

Even the Refectory played a distinctive role in enlivening campus life. Apparently we were pioneers! The March 20, 1929 edition of the *News* announced that a new vegetable had been introduced in the Refectory "called BROCCOLI!! probably from Mexico." We were also philanthropists! Periodically we had Starvation or Soup Sundays. They were for the benefit of various causes like the Bulgarian students and the four Reese boys, whom we were supporting at the Covington Home for Boys. We never knew much about those boys, but the Soup Sundays made us feel noble if not nourished. Speaking of soup, the most famous item in the cuisine of that era was Fruit Soup, which gave us a great deal to talk about. Miss Weatherlow, the thin little deaf dietitian, electrified us all by eloping with Mr. Jensen, the corpulent Danish chef who, we heard, polished up his royal coat of arms and hung

Humphrey, Julian Huxley, John Cowper Powys, and Hans Kindler.

Students were strongly urged not to go home for Thanksgiving. Class cuts taken on Friday and Saturday counted double, and inducements were offered so that staying at Sweet Briar was even preferred by many. After classes were over on Wednesday night there was something special, a movie or a bridge benefit. On Thursday morning the foxhunters rose at 6:30, had breakfast at Boxwood Inn, and by 7:00 were off riding to the hounds. There was a holiday breakfast for all at 8:30; then Thanksgiving church service at 10:00, conducted by Miss Glass; a buffet lunch of apples, bread, milk and crackers, and a formal dinner at 5:30 with "all the fixin's," and an orchestra from Lynchburg for dancing until 8:00. Then came the biggest program of the year, such as The Sue Hastings Marionettes, The Martha Graham Dance Troupe, famous magician John Mulholland, and Helen Howe.

Early in the decade Sweet Briar boasted its own 10-piece orchestra composed of three first and three second violins, a viola, a cello, a flute, and a clarinet, under the direction of Miss

Weaver. They undertook ambitious programs, including Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*, Haydn's *Surprise*, Walther's "Prize Song" from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* and many others. Mr. Reginald Martin played the organ and gave musical chapel services on Monday nights, and when Miss Rood and Ernest Zechiel joined the music faculty, they gave many piano-violin recitals.

When Alfred Finch came to Sweet Briar, a new day dawned in choral music. He had a large, active senior glee club, a junior glee club, and a very select choir, who were amazingly loyal to their Sunday commitments. He even had an adult choir for faculty and friends in Amherst and Lynchburg. Betty the Briarite made some crack about the choristers trying to find a little time between rehearsals to get their college education, but it was no joke! Those of us involved in choir and glee club ate it, slept it, and loved every minute of it. We entered the state contest and won first place. We gave joint concerts with W & L and UVA for the first time; we joined in statewide choruses performing Brahms' *Requiem* in Richmond and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* in Charlottesville, and anywhere, any time, when two

or three were gathered together, we sang "The Silver Swan."

Some of us whose posture pictures had been a little less than majestic were forced to abandon our dreams of varsity basketball intercollegiate triumphs and settle for hanging from a bar on the wall of Grammer Commons for our winter sport until the new gym was put to use in 1932. But the athletic program gave us leadership status in the whole area. We were hosts and the winners of first place in a tournament of the VA-NC Field Hockey Association; we were hosts to the English Lacrosse Team; the newspaper was always full of accounts of intercollegiate games in every season. The climate or the calendar must have been significantly different in those days to provide enough time on the lake for class competition in swimming and boating, but Lake Day and Gala Night were definitely important annual events. Each class had its float, which would pass the judges' stand at the Boat House, the winner amassing points for the annual class championship in all sports.

Between Pop Blackwell and Harriet Rogers there was always a horse show or a foxhunt or a moonlight ride to the

it behind the stove. Somehow we never decided whether that fruit soup was the inspiration for or the product of their union.

Sweet Briar had no resident chaplain in those days. Miss Glass was enough of a preacher to enjoy conducting services and did so more than anyone else. The honor was shared with other faculty and student leaders for the noontime weekday services, and every effort was made to keep the halls above in Manson quiet enough to preserve a reverent atmosphere. Chapel was compulsory, but with a certain number of cuts allowed. It seemed as if it was always the noisy ones taking the cuts. In March 1929, the *News* carried a letter from Libba Lankford '29 to Miss Glass, handing the control of chapel attendance back to the faculty as the students wanted no part of trying to enforce a rule they didn't believe in. In the fall of '31 compulsory chapel was abolished. We always had visiting preachers, and a choir and organ performing excellent music. It is true that sometimes they had very few beside themselves to benefit from the occasion, but that was a pretty good number. Many were the times when the preacher turned around from the lectern and included the choir behind him in his sermon.

The YWCA was the organization through which missionary work and social services were

performed such as the staff children's Christmas party and events at St. Paul's Mission. It assigned the Student Associates and handled the Big Sister program. Classes were segregated in the dorms with freshmen filling up Reid and Grammer on one side of the road, sophomores in Manson and Randolph, juniors predominantly in Carson, seniors primarily in Gray. So the sister class feeling was important and played a big part in things like gown-hemming, hooding at graduation, step-singing and Lantern Night.

Student Government was completely absorbed with making, teaching, and enforcing the rules. The Honor System was all important. It applied not only to academic but social regulations as well. Your word was your bond, "good taste and good judgment" your criterion. There was no division between Exec and Judic. The four officers and house presidents had to do it all. And so many rules! And such security in fussing about them and fearing the penalties if you failed to observe them! And such relief not to make all those decisions for yourself! One of the first liberalizations of that decade was when seniors were allowed to ride in cars with young men *after* dark as far as Lynchburg, and juniors and sophomores could ride with men to Lynchburg, *before* dark. But the real biggy was when Miss



Emily Jones Hodge '27: Back for her 73rd!

Emily Jones Hodge, who had not been on campus since her 50th Reunion in 1977, exclaimed during last May's Reunion Weekend that it was "WONDERFUL to be back—I'm awed by all the changes!" She and her daughter, Sara Hodge Geuder, were enthusiastic participants in all of the Reunion festivities; in fact, Emily didn't miss a beat. Her only regret: "I really wanted to see more people from my class. Unfortunately, I'm the only one here."

"I lived in Grammer for a while. For six months, though, I lived over at Mt. St. Angelo, because of the overflow. A bus driver would take us to campus for classes in the morning and back to St. Angelo in the afternoon."

When she was living in Grammer, she and her friends would pour water from the top floor down the space between the stair flights onto unsuspecting passersby on the ground floor. "One day I was caught as I drenched Miss Searle, the math teacher. Thus endeth my participation in THAT activity!"

She remembers delicious spoon bread served every Sunday night: she and her tablemates would "hurriedly pass the serving dish around, emptying it as quickly as possible so that we could get a refill while there was still some to be had." After dinner as they walked through the arcade between the Refectory and Randolph, they would practice the Charleston.

"Sweet Briar was a lot of fun; I enjoyed all my time here. When all the girls went out, we would go to Lynchburg to shop and eat. We would buy dill pickles to take to the movies to eat.

"I was pretty much involved in everything. I was senior class president and in the May Court. We dated men from the University of Virginia, Washington & Lee, and V.M.I. We would meet them in Gray and then do things on campus. Once I had a date to attend a dance at the Naval Academy—but I had an infection on my finger and Dr. Harley wouldn't let me go. I don't know why my finger couldn't make the trip up there."

And how has the College changed? "Its size. It's so much BIGGER compared to my Sweet Briar."

Rosam Quae Meruit Ferat



Kay Meyer '28 in buggy

Glass announced that students no longer had to walk out to Bus Rhea's beyond the campus fence to smoke. On May 14, 1930, *The Sweet Briar News* carried enormous headlines: "MISS GLASS ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY GRANT AMID WILD APPLAUSE OF STUDENT BODY." Hours and places were fixed on campus, and poor Bus Rhea's extra-vehicular business was ruined. Smoking was allowed for a short period after meals in the Senior Study in Gray and in the large parlors in Grammer and Randolph. Otherwise, it was outdoors in the West Dell only. So the traffic pattern in mid-morning was: down the hill from Fletcher or Academic to the P. O., around the corner to the basement of Boxwood for a coke and nabs (5 cents ea.) and the Lucky Strike flat fifties, then on to the Dell for a cigarette in the sun, rain, or snow before going to the next class or the library.

Of course, there were no phones in the rooms and no smoking there; so the only way you got together with your friends was to meet in the parlor or in the Dell or at Boxwood Inn

dining room where it was always packed and cozy. (Those Sunday night suppers of waffles and creamed chicken were something to remember, although our spending money was so scarce it didn't happen often unless you had a visitor.)

When lunch was over you rushed to the parlors or Grammer Commons (after the gym was completed) and grabbed a cigarette and had a few hands of bridge. Then after dinner you rushed back to Grammer Commons where Mary B. Lankford '33 or Mary Moore '33 or Jerry Johnston, '35 or Jackie Strickland, '35 or... thank heavens, at least one in every class played the piano. And sometimes Tooky was teaching us how to dance cheek-to-cheek Princeton style, or we were harmonizing and making up new class songs, just for that short period allotted for smoking before Quiet Hour. Smoking was the key to all our sociability!

Girl-break Saturday night dances in Grammer Commons were standard procedure then, and Mid-Winters and May Day were the all-out dance weekends with the formal program dances on Friday night, the upperclass

figures after intermission, and everybody gone by 1:20.

Commencement in those days was an orgy of remembering, cementing, parting and coming unglued altogether! It began with the arrival of family, friends and alumnae for the Senior Garden Party at 5:00 Saturday afternoon. At 8:00 there was a suitable Final Play—like *Smiling Through*—in the Boxwood Gardens. Sunday there was Baccalaureate and Sunday dinner and visiting until 5:00 when Step Singing was followed by Vespers and Lantern Night. Monday was Alumnae Day, with a luncheon for everyone followed by an alumnae meeting. That night the alumnae gave a banquet for the seniors and Tuesday Commencement took place at 10 a.m. It's too bad we've outgrown all that togetherness. Now it all happens in less than 24 hours and the alumnae never see any part of it.

We were a heterogeneous lot with no College Boards and nothing to package us uniformly. When Gertrude Stein was here in 1935, she said Sweet Briar and Mt. Holyoke girls were the only college girls in the country you couldn't fit into a mold. We

When Gertrude Stein was here in 1935, she said Sweet Briar and Mt. Holyoke girls were the only college girls in the country you couldn't fit into a mold.

ranged all the way from my roommate down to me. On one end of the continuum, sophisticated, soignée, smooth (that was the word in those days), blasé (well past the 18th birthday), lorgnettes, good Yankee prep school, trunks of clothes from Manhattan couturier—on the other end, young (barely 16), insecure, naive, inexperienced, small-town Southern, public high school, eager, innocent, and homemade! In the folders their backgrounds indicated they would be compatible. Funny thing, they were! But it took a little time to know. And thank God for that time. It has lasted all our lives.

Pitching In

1936-1946

The fall of 1937 brought a change in life: it was time to leave family and home to begin freshman year at Sweet Briar College.

The train chugs and boils; if one is not near enough campus to drive, this is the way to travel. What heaven! The steamer trunks have gone ahead by Railway Express. Now, despite the September heat, in new costumes, high heels, hats, gloves, and carrying purses and hat-boxes, we're off to unknown adventures.



1944

By Joan De Vore Roth '41

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 75th Anniversary Issue of the Alumnae Magazine
Copy edited for length



Lynchburg, Sweet Briar station, even Monroe depot bid welcome and we soon approach the College. The campus is enormous. As we drive by the East Dell, we see Grammer and Reid to the left; on the right, Manson, Carson, and Randolph, followed by the Refectory, cupola, and Gray. Beyond graceful arcades we see Academic, Mary Helen Cochran Library and Fletcher. Sweet Briar House stands calm and serene; way beyond is the gym. How can we ever find our way around?

And to think, our parents found it possible to send us to college in spite of the depression. Only five percent of high school graduates in the country will attend college at this time. The overall fee is \$1,000 plus a \$25 activities fee; though books are not included, laundry is free.

Our president is Miss Meta Glass. Miss Emily Dutton is Dean. Mrs. Bernice Lill is the Registrar, through whose office our applications, hopes and prayers have passed.

Our guide to rules, regulations, and behavior, the *Handbook* is with us always. It seems so complicated. As freshmen we make an apron, name inscribed, to be worn until

Founders' Day. We fear and obey sophomores: "Wake me gently tomorrow morning... Bring me apples from the orchard this afternoon... Report to Commons after dinner to entertain us." We learn seniors' names alphabetically and recite on call during Freshman-Sophomore Day.

The Dean's Office is a busy place, but we never question the rules. The Honor System prevails and works, in both academic and social life.

College life at Sweet Briar was pleasant and bucolic during the late '30s. It was a gentle, easy time. Campus activities could be as demanding as a student chose, and there was plenty to choose from. P & P always had a production underway with plays performed either in Fletcher or in the chapel in Manson. Scenery was built outdoors; flats were painted in the parking lot behind Fletcher. We were great joiners—language clubs, camera club, Tanz Zirkel, studio club, biology, English, economics, IRC [International Relations Club], to name a few. Even a Texas Club existed until 1944. We had team games (freshmen vs. seniors), and hockey, lacrosse, basketball and riding were big on campus. Since there were no cars on

Social rules are strict. Parents were much more lenient than college, but then college is taking their place in absentia. Who would dream of disobeying such rulings as:

1. Every overnight absence must be approved by Dean's Office.
2. Students must secure from parents or guardians written or special permission to motor with men off campus.
3. Seniors may have cars at the close of senior exam period. These must be registered with the Dean.
4. The drinking of intoxicants except for beer, ale and light wines is not countenanced by the Student Government Association.
5. Whenever any student leaves campus, she must sign out and in, in her House Book.
6. For weekends and dances away from Sweet Briar (students do not dance at public places in Lynchburg), and for dances at Sweet Briar, chaperones shall be secured or approved by the Dean's Office.



1945 dance



Grammer Commons, 1937

If we got fat, we stayed fat. Diets were not a fad then, and the young men who appeared on campus seemed to like the girls who had a little meat on their bones.

campus and few bicycles (five or six), we walked everywhere. Four or five miles were nothing and we were never in a hurry.

We were required to take phys. ed. *all* four years. This kept us healthy. We couldn't afford to be sick because there were no antibiotics. If our colds were bad enough, we were steamed at the Infirmary. This meant straddling a steaming teakettle that rested on a hot plate. This 30-minute procedure steamed the face, straightened the hair and bloodshot the eyes. That and the usual aspirin were the campus cure-alls. We contracted cat fever and the gripe. For that we went to bed and drank quantities of water. For food poisoning (which happened about once a year), we held each other's heads and survived. We were checked for bad posture. If we listed to the right or left, we were admonished to lug our books on the other hip until we straightened out. All sprains and torn ligaments were automatically wrapped in Ace bandages. If we got fat, we stayed fat. Diets were not a fad then, and the young men who appeared on campus seemed to like the girls who had a little meat on their bones.

If something serious happened, like catching a hockey ball in the teeth, there was the Lynchburg hospital, but it had precious little business from SBC. I think that, on the whole, we were easy to live with. I cannot remember the currently popular game at SBC being played 35 years ago: musical-chairs roommates. Maybe the innate courtesy of the '30s and our upbringing made us less demanding, a bit more polite and more accepting, but the girls generally made an effort to get along with their roommates. We shared possessions (my ski sweater went to Dartmouth three times but I never made it). We wouldn't think of cutting each other down. Consequently, emotional problems seemed minimal. If they did exist, we were perhaps too ignorant to recognize them. Most of our emotional problems were chalked up to fatigue during exams. The cure was simple: we were put to bed in the Infirmary and we slept until we woke up. No one had heard of a psychiatrist! Any girl trying to feign illness to escape an exam or test because she hadn't studied received no sympathy from our medical staff. Anyhow, we



Boxwood Inn, 1945

avoided the Infirmary like the plague.

I believe we all made an effort to be considerate of the resident staff member living in our dorm. I am certain that many a time Miss Muncy or Miss von Briesen (of Grammer and Reid) would gladly have traded their rooms for a corner of Tibet, or any place to get away from the girls who made trouble for them. The staff were wonderful sports: they deserved a gold medal every semester. Even if one didn't need a safety pin to hold up a dress or a quick counseling on a life-and-death

matter, it was most satisfying to know that we had an adult friend there with us.

Boxwood Inn was our hub. Grammer Commons, the center for incessant bridge games. We saw weekly movies in the chapel. We attended weekly chapel services, and the chapel was nearly always filled with students and faculty and staff. We swam and fished in the lake—yes, fished, and caught bass and bluegills. Some of the girls, the story goes, went coon-hunting with the natives. This involved crashing about cross-country in a vintage jalopy on



Clockwise from top left: archery practice, 1939; Bertha Woiles '17 with students in the kitchen, 1940; the reflecting pool in front of the library; Chung Mungs, 1944.

unpaved roads; most roads in Amherst County were unpaved. Jugs of white lightning were passed around and one just had to be neighborly and take a slug. All local farmers tucked away their own brands; sampling them was an extra liberal arts experience for our \$1,000 fee. Coon hunts inevitably left one with a weekend migraine.

We all looked alike. Skirts and sweaters with pearls or a dickey gave way to shirtmaker dresses. Ghillies gave way to saddle oxfords, and the ubiquitous Spaldings and Abercrombie oxfords gave in to loafers. Ankle socks and argyles were the order of the day. We wore raincoats over jeans, shorts, or gym outfits; we would not dare appear out of the dorm in such a state of undress, even in hottest weather. The raincoat which was of greatest use and value was the reversible: this served all seasons. College rule: no

gym clothes, no slacks to classes or to meals. (Riding clothes were no exception.) College rule: dresses, rayon stockings, and heels for dinner. As I recall, the social committee stood guard at the Refectory and we had to pass inspection.

In the late '30s and into the '40s we followed all rules and questioned none. They seemed sensible. In those days we were too innocent or ignorant to know how underprivileged we were: no cars; no dates during wartime years; no hard liquor; no cooking in dorms; no smoking in dorm rooms; no TV; no stereo; no electric typewriters; no electric clocks; no private phones; no locked doors or lockboxes for valuables (most of us didn't have valuables anyway—anyone who received \$30 per month from home was a rich kid).

Our allowances went for 5 cent cokes at the Inn, 5 cent

Some of the girls, the story goes, went coon-hunting with the natives. This involved crashing about cross-country in a vintage jalopy on unpaved roads; Most roads in Amherst County were unpaved. Jugs of white lightning were passed around and one just had to be neighborly and take a slug. All local farmers tucked away their own brands; sampling them was an extra liberal arts experience for our \$1,000 fee. Coon hunts inevitably left one with a weekend migraine.

Thoughts on the Forties

By Annabelle Forsch Prager '43

I suffered through pangs of nostalgia and regret when I read in the *Alumnae Magazine* of the death of Edward Linforth, who taught art at the College between 1938 and 1945. In the 57 years that have gone by since this sensitive, intuitive, and very reserved man guided the direction my life was to take, I heard nothing of him. Now it was too late. I sat right down to express sympathy and gratitude to his wife, Justine, who I remembered he had met when they both attended the Yale School of Fine Arts right before coming to Sweet Briar. After mailing the letter I waited with anticipation to hear what she could tell me.

Pre-college visits and interviews were not the custom in 1939 when I arrived at Sweet Briar College not knowing what to expect. The timing could not have been more fortuitous for an impressionable 17-year-old who loved to draw but knew nothing about art. President Meta Glass had recently secured a number of grants to enrich the arts on campus. A major in art was instituted just two years before my arrival and the number of faculty members was increased. Young Ted Linforth, very much in time with new forces about to burst on the art scene, was one of the newcomers.

In the 1940s the American art world was in the process of radical change. Many of the great European figures had come to America. Marcel Duchamp, Piet Mondrian, Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, just to name a few. At the same time a whole young generation of American abstract painters was trying out radical new ideas. Only known to a select few, they were to become highly celebrated.

Miss Glass and the art faculty used grant funds to bring an incredible array of priceless exhibitions to campus. Paintings by Picasso, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Matisse, the Americans Birchfield, Hurd, and Edward Hopper, works that today would be unthinkable to circulate to small colleges. In 1942 Fernand Leger visited Sweet Briar with a show of 30 gouache studies of his work "The Divers," one of which he presented to the College. I was his translator. I toured him around the campus as he pretended not to understand a word of English. We trudged up the three flights of stairs in Fletcher to the art studio where students had decorously displayed their works hoping to get his attention. "Magnifique!" he cried as he stood in the doorway pointing into the room. He ambled past the gaggle of expectant students to the sink where a huge hunk of paint-streaked soap, hollowed out by hundreds of dirty brushes, sat splendidly pretending to be a Henry

Moore sculpture.

Freshman year my introduction to art was an illuminating leap through history, identifying the world's great works and putting them in their proper places. In those days it was customary to accompany art lectures with a weekly period in the studio so that students could become familiar with the disciplines that produced the art. It was there I fell under the spell of Ted Linforth.

Stimulated by a current theory of aesthetics from the University of California where his father taught philosophy, he wanted us to see how abstract qualities such as line, space, color, and form enhanced a painting, pointing this out in all his lecture courses from early Italian art to the recent moderns. One of his very favorite artists was Alexander Calder who I believe he knew. He transmitted to me his fascination with objects moving in space.

For the next four euphoric years I painted under his guidance. Together we created an original body of work which he allowed might be promising. What a shot in the arm, coming from a teacher who never endorsed anything he didn't consider first-rate. As I think back, never once did he refer to his own work. For the summers he urged me to go to Provincetown to study with Hans Hofmann, the most influential teacher of the period, whose list of successful students reads like a who's who of abstract expressionism. There I learned a new way to look at objects, which involved what he spoke of as negative space. And there every evening I ate fresh fish off the dock with three students and Tennessee Williams, who was never without his captain's hat and invariably begged anyone in sight to read his current play, as yet unproduced.

When it came time to graduate, I was asked to stay at Sweet Briar as an art instructor, but Linforth said there was nothing for me to do but to go to the Yale School of Fine Arts, his alma mater, even though he deplored its Beaux Arts tradition which he said turned its eyes on the past.

He was correct. At the school in the early '40s they were still drawing from plaster casts and teaching egg tempera painting. Its great years were yet to come. Yet again the choice was fortuitous. The campus, especially the architecture school, was teeming with celebrated architects, critics, painters, lighting experts, designers, composers; even our hero Sandy Calder was often present with his pals. They came to lecture, to criticize, to share their ideas with the students and what's more, to party with them, an education in itself.

Life became even more beguiling when I went back to New York where my friends were designing and building the U.N.

Yale set the patterns of my days—my social life, my career, my spare time. Yale contacts eventually produced my husband. David's love of contemporary painting was as intense as Ted Linforth's. An attorney, he represented the New York artists, bought their work, became their friend—Motherwell, Rothko, Kline, Tworkov, Frankenthaler, David Smith, Joseph Cornell, Walker Evans (the list is endless) were all complicated, fascinating companions. We had a tremendously stimulating life at a spectacular moment in history, both in the city and in Provincetown, where I never ceased to spend time.

As for me, I discovered that without Ted Linforth, I couldn't be the painter he wanted me to be. I turned my creative energies to illustrating, writing, and the music which had so inspired me at Sweet Briar. But what about him? Was I ever going to know what direction his passions had taken him? After mailing the letter to Justine I didn't have long to wait. Only three days later I got a phone call. "I'm Jonathan Linforth," said a voice. "My mother passed away four months ago." "Oh no!" I thought. He went on, "My brother, my sisters and I were very affected by your letter. We must meet you. Our father was a very reserved man who spent much of his life in Pennsylvania, first as an architect designer, then in sales. He never shared his thoughts and ambitions about art with us. We hope to learn about that side of his life from you."

So the story has a bittersweet but frustrating ending. I plan to meet with these children now in their '50s, two of whom were born at Sweet Briar. Maybe together we will understand more about their self-contained, complicated father whose devotion to the highest standards in art very few of us can meet, a devotion he ceased to speak about out loud, a devotion that had offered so many rewards for me, a favored student long, long ago. Would he have derived any pleasure from knowing that?

In any case I will always think of those years with appreciation and affection—the Sweet Briar campus was a splendid place to be.



Bundles for Britain, ca. 1944.

candy bars, and 25 cent cigarettes: Fatimas, Ramses and Virginia Rounds. Long gone were salesmen on campus handing out samples of Luckies, Camels, and Chesterfields. Flat-Fifties were a thing of the past.

In our innocence we had a grand time. We piled into buses and on trains and went to New York or Washington. An expensive hotel room was six dollars, and with four to six girls in a room, a weekend was downright cheap. We took Trailways to Lynchburg to see movies for 50 cents. We went to the White House (lobster, \$1.50), Columns, the Brass Rail. The Virginian Hotel was SBC's headquarters in town. We loved flowers from Doyle's!

We were often invited to our professors' homes for cookouts, for Thursday afternoon teas, and spaghetti suppers. We had to make our own fun and we did it. We planned pageants and plays; celebrated a snowfall by skipping classes and borrowing Refectory trays for sledding in the dells. We really came to know our classmates and professors well. Many of our classes were small. We surely received individual attention, which is one of the reasons why

we remember our teachers with affection and devotion.

In the late '30s the auditorium fund was underway; we sold "bricks" for a dollar each. We were determined to get this much-needed building.

At this same time, the winds of war were blowing.

December 1941: Pearl Harbor instantly brought us into World War II. In January 1942 a Bundles for Britain chapter was organized on campus. Headlines in the *Sweet Briar News* reveal changes on campus and across the nation: Bond Drive; War Service Committee Formed; National Nursing Profession seeks Recruits; War Fund Drive Opens; Red Cross Drives Continue; Woman's Land Army Organized. In 1943 WAVE Lieut. McAfee visited campus.

In April 1944 seven students from that class were sworn in as WACS: Susan Somervell, Peggy Gordon, Norma Bradley, Anita Lippitt, Janet Staples, Alice Hepburn and Marjorie Willetts.

The war years left us without dates and the College without adequate help in the orchards and dining rooms. It was strongly advised that we pitch in, apply ourselves, be strong, and

A picnic at the dam,
1945, right.
Far right, local school
students enjoy a
musical production in
Manson Auditorium,
1945



Eleanor Potts Snodgrass '48 Shares Memories

After Franklin Roosevelt's death in April of 1945, we heard that his coffin would be coming by train through Sweet Briar. About 40 of us went down to the station to pay our respects. It was 5:00 or 6:00 a.m., still dark, but light enough to see that every blind on the train had been pulled down. It was a very sad, somber occasion and I don't remember anyone speaking until we returned to the campus.

Perk Traugott Brown '45 told me that in the spring of 1944, she, Harriet Willcox '45 and others were recruited by the Women's Land Army to help sort and pack apples which the German prisoners of war had picked on Afton Mountain. Her sister, Patty Traugott '48 was my roommate. Patty joined the group that summer; they spent ten days they will always remember: she and Perk had to share a bed infested with fleas at the old Afton Mountain Hotel, while others had to sleep on straw.

The Class of '48 was very fortunate in having two outstanding presidents, Miss Meta Glass for our first two years and Martha Lucas the last two years. All of us respected Miss Glass and her strong opinions very much. She was the quintessential lady. We liked Martha Lucas too and, as Wayne Goodall '48 says, she "raised our consciousness" when speaking of her favorite subject, UNESCO. Remember all those flogs stuck in the ground in front of the academic buildings and the library? She also taught an excellent course in comparative religion, which I enjoyed.

We were very fortunate to have excellent teachers. I majored in philosophy and thought Miss Lucy Crawford was a jewel. Miss Benedict's course in religion was outstanding; she married Dr. Rollins. Who could ever forget Jovan de Rocco, who taught us art history and visited his wife in New York once a month? He was a fine teacher.

Do you remember that the mother of our classmate Westray Battle Boyce was head of the WACS? And that classmate Jane Luke and a young lady from another college were the first two females to be admitted to UVA medical school?

All this brings to mind a lot of hoppy times.



Doreen Brugger '45 picking fruit

please roll bandages in the gym basement twice a week. Also cleave to the Puritan ethic and pick apples. We were boarded on trucks and carried into the countryside to save the County's and the College's apple crop. As no other pickers were available, we volunteered. Our schedules looked a bit odd: first hour, English; second hour, Apple Orchard, lunch, zoo lab, then apples for dinner. Most of us got so we couldn't face apple sauce or apple pie. Many faculty members ate several meals a week in the Refectory—maybe to save ration coupons? Students, of course, turned over their coupons to the College each semester to help provide meat, sugar, butter, and coffee.

Being of sound mind and body we all "volunteered" to wait tables in the Refectory and Reid. Volunteer meant that when your name appeared on the bright yellow sheet on Gray bulletin board, you served your week each semester, rain or shine, boom or bust. Only a broken leg or arm took your name off the roster. We did this wait-ress duty with good spirit and cheer: we were being patriotic.

Two of our most distinguished wartime volunteers were President Glass and Professor Barker, who joined the soda fountain brigade at Boxwood Inn, serving many a delicious chocolate malt or chocolate sundae.



Building sets, 1941, left.
Below, the Post Office in 1940



drivers were rationed four gallons a week), and entertained troops from nearby Army camps.

By the end of the war in 1945, Sweet Briar alumnae had been serving in the WACS, WAVES and Marines. Some of our classmates' fathers helped win the war, among them General Somervell, General Spaatz, General Royall and General McNary.

Who can forget the big bands? "Mairzy Doats"? "The Hut Sut Song"? "Don't Fence Me In"? *Rebecca*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Casablanca*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*? Studying in the stacks for exams? Dr. Connor's trailer? Fresh strawberries in the spring? Finals with the scent of honeysuckle coming through the library?

Miss Umbreit's Music 101-102? Classical Civilization, a wondrous course and the majority did not really appreciate it? "Good morning, Miss," "Good morning, Chris"? Gorgeous slabs of homemade bread, peanut butter and jelly for lunch instead of Scotch woodcock? The Y boxes in the dorms where we bought candy bars and snacks? The Amherst ladies who came at exam time and sold sandwiches in the dorm halls? The excitement of a telegram or special delivery letter sent to your room? Elijah Road and Red Top? The Campus Characters hockey team? Amherst County Day? Fire drills? Miss Ruby and Miss Winnie? The Bum Chums? D-Day? V-E Day? And do you remember where you were on V-J Day?

All this was the foundation of our love for Sweet Briar, the flower fair.

The Inn, a most popular spot, served breakfast coffee and cinnamon toast for 15 cents. Mrs. Greenberg ran the place with an iron hand and rattled keys at closing hour, but she went all-out for a student's birthday dinner. Across the road from Boxwood Inn was the post office, run by Mr. Martindale, who with his wife, the former Miss Dix, lived on lower floor Gray. Mail services were good. Stamps cost three cents, airmail a nickel. We had one telephone switchboard operator, who knew everything about everybody. She also helped press our clothes. We had no security guards or campus police, just

one night watchman, Mr. Beard. We lived in an era of faith and trust in each other. We walked around campus at 4:00 a.m. and the dorms were unlocked.

Other than the Inn, the great social centers were the dorms, which buzzed 24 hours a day. We used the corridors for golf-putting, sitting-up exercises, conferences, practicing fireman's carry, shuffleboard, rolling dice, listening to phone conversations (one phone per corridor), but NO SMOKING. We rode, hiked, camped on Paul's Mountain, smoked on the arcades in coldest weather, thumbd rides to Amherst (although we found few cars as

The Males of the Species



Lounge Lizard



G. I.



Friend of the family



Lokal Yokle



Perpetual Sophomore



Murage

Sweet Briar at the Beginning of WORLD WAR II

September 30th, 1994 Founders' Day Address by Helen Sanford '42

The class of '42 arrived at Sweet Briar in September, 1938. Europe was just on the verge of World War II. Hitler was in control of Germany. Germany had annexed Austria, and was hovering over Czechoslovakia.

Within a year, Germany and Russia had divided Poland between them, and England and France had gone to war against Germany.

The war was a thread running through our lives the four years we were here, a constant presence. But in fact it did not much affect what we did at Sweet Briar until the United States was directly involved.

The war was a thread running through our lives the four years we were here, a constant presence. But in fact it did not much affect what we did at Sweet Briar until the United States was directly involved.

I lived in Texas, and went home only for Christmases and summers. In between, I communicated by letter. I still have a bundle of those letters, which I used as a reference source for today.

A letter at the beginning of sophomore year said, matter of factly, "There may not be golf this fall, because Mr. Napier is Scottish and he might have to go fight in the war." Later letters don't say whether he did or not, and I

don't remember. In the spring I reported having knitted a sweater for a child in Finland; Russia had taken over chunks of Finnish land, and someone here was lining up help for the Finns.

As sophomore year ended, Germany swept through Holland and Belgium, and into France. More than 300,000 British and French troops were evacuated out of Dunkirk. On July 10th, Italy joined the attack on France. By mid-July, France had capitulated, and the German air force launched the Battle of Britain, bombarding England to soften it up for

invasion.

In September 1940, junior year, the United States Congress passed the Selective Service Act. Men between 21 and 35 were required to register for the draft—the first peacetime draft in U. S. history.

I was not dating anyone. My classmates who were dating were more concerned than I was about the potential effects of the draft, but campus life was still essentially normal as junior year began.

I adored everything about Sweet Briar that year, as I had since the end of my first few miserable weeks as a freshman. I decided to major in history of art. I auditioned for the glee club and got in, wrote headlines for the *Sweet Briar News*, sold ads for the *Briar Patch*, and was invited into Aints and Asses.

There was a presidential election that fall. The Democrats nominated Roosevelt for a third term; the Republicans nominated Wendell Willkie. Those of us who had heard our fathers rail against Roosevelt for eight years were passionate Willkie supporters. We organized a march around campus, singing Willkie songs. We were not old enough to vote, the voting age was 21. And without us, Wendell Willkie lost.

The president of the College was Miss Meta Glass, dignified, erect and rather distant. Much of the time she was away. We dutifully sang a song that had been written as a tribute to her, with lines like "You are the best and truest friend of all..." But we did not feel that we knew her very well.

We celebrated May Day with the usual excitement. The most beautiful girl in the senior class was May Queen. The theme that year was Old Vienna. The glee club dressed in what were supposed to be Tyrolean peasant costumes, and sang "The Blue Danube Waltz." Aints and Asses followed May Day with the Dismay Court. We thought we were hilarious.

As junior year ended, the Battles of the Atlantic, the great



May Day, 1945

naval battles, were under way. On May 27th, 1941, the British sank the mighty German battleship *Bismarck*.

Almost at the same time, Aints and Asses was electing me president. I was beside myself with excitement. We celebrated with dinner and wine at Mrs. Wills' in Amherst.

That summer, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Japan invaded Indochina. And Congress voted to extend the service of drafted men for 18 months.

We picked up life as usual when we came back as seniors in the fall. At the first Step-Singing, Tau Phi announced its new members. I reported it in a letter to my mother: "It's not a scholastic thing," I said. "It is much more of an honor than that."

Virginia was suffering a terrible heat wave. We heard that if ten more days went by without rain, the College would close. The rain came. On Founders' Day 1941, it poured. The seniors marched in procession into the chapel, wearing their caps and gowns, and then rode up to the Monument—on the running boards of cars—to lay flowers on Daisy's grave.

The chapel was in the basement of Manson. That space functioned as a church, an auditorium, a music hall, and sometimes as a theatre, although Paint and Patches productions were in Fletcher.

The Trapp Family Singers—the refugee von Trapps who inspired *The Sound of Music* gave a concert in the chapel. The mother did not look the way Julie Andrews looked, but



their singing was beautiful.

We were busy raising money for a proper auditorium, selling symbolic paper bricks for a dollar apiece to our fathers and other vulnerable prospects. The Faculty Show in November benefited the Auditorium Fund. It drew a good crowd: word had gone out that in the show Mr. Finch of the Music Department was to murder President Glass.

In November we started work on the Senior Show. I was in charge of props, creating, painting, and borrowing. It was a marvelous show, written, acted, and sung by the talent of the Class of 1942. The title was *Just Looking Thanks*. The blockbuster song was "It's '42." In the play, that referred to a dress size. "It's 42, can't you see by looking at me that it's true..."



Moving in, 1945.

The night the Senior Show presented itself to the world was Saturday, December 6th, 1941. The next day, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

We learned about the attack Sunday afternoon. Some kind of function was going on in the gymnasium that night. We carried our radios to listen to the news. The next day we heard President Roosevelt's address, when he spoke of "the day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress to declare war on Japan, as it promptly did. Three days later Congress declared that we were at war with Germany and Italy as well.

Our mood was somber after Pearl Harbor. Some of us had fathers and brothers and friends in imminent danger. All of us felt the impact of the involvement of our country. The war was never out of our minds for very long after that.

Academic life continued. We went home for Christmas, returning to face exams. In January, the Friends of Art brought the French abstractionist Fernand Leger to campus. He charged us \$150. We sold only \$97 worth of tickets for his lectures, which were in French, with one of the art [students] translating; they were all about abstract art. We liked Fernand Leger, who seemed to fancy himself a ladies' man, but his message about art was largely unintelligible to us.

That spring the Sweet Briar Glee Club, with the Duke Glee Club and the Harvard Orchestra, appeared in concert on campus. The program ended with a glorious rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Later—after 11:00, when we were all in quarters—the Duke men stood in the quadrangle and serenaded. They were very good, and we were thrilled.

To support the war effort, we bought Defense Stamps and

pasted them in savings books. We took First Aid courses. We knitted wrist-warmers and helmets. We raised money for Bundles for Britain. We served as fire proctors and air raid wardens. At Miss Glass' instigation, the College

sponsored an "Institute of

National Needs and Resources," two days of lectures and discussions on production and consumption in wartime.

Many of our classmates were acquiring rings and planning weddings. This was natural, since domesticity was our expected destiny, but the war speeded the action in 1942. One of my classmates says that her beloved proposed because driving to Sweet Briar to court her was wearing out his tires, and tires were getting hard to buy.

May Day arrived again, and the Dismay Court followed. The Dismay Court sold tickets, netting \$22 for war relief.

Between January and May, the Philippines slowly fell to Japan. American forces withdrew to the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor; on May 6th Corregidor surrendered.

Sugar rationing was instituted in the States. We signed up for ration cards and turned them over to the College for the rest of the year. The Refectory stopped putting sugar on the tables; iced tea was sweetened ahead of time in the kitchen.

Gos rationing was a problem. We asked the College to house our families in dormitories at graduation, so that they would not have to drive back and forth to Lynchburg.

Inevitably, inexorably, graduation day came on June 9th, and we headed off into the world. Many class members married within months of graduation. Almost all of them married in time. A few have had business or professional careers also, but the majority have not. They have raised



Swearing In ceremony, 1944

children, managed households, headed civic and philanthropic organizations, and done good works. We have a wonderful class.

I am one of the tiny minority who have stayed single, so far. The years have been mostly fun: a year in secretarial school—Katharine Gibbs, New York—and then two years and three months in the Marine Corps. I may be one of the few people you know who marched in Franklin Roosevelt's funeral procession.

Several classmates served in the Navy (WAVES). Others were with the Red Cross; a couple of these served overseas. When the war ended, I went home and went to work. Eventually I drifted into advertising, at a small advertising agency in Houston for 15 years, and a giant one in New York for nearly ten. My assignment for most of that time was media—planning, recommending, and contracting for media space and time. Ultimately I moved into client liaison

work. When I retired, I went back to college to earn a master's in history at SMU.

Every job I have had since Sweet Briar, paid or volunteer, starting with the Marine Corps in Washington—every job has involved writing. In advertising I was never a copywriter, but writing was the essence of the work. We wrote constantly: letters, memos, presentations and sales pitches, criticisms and defenses.

It is a great asset to be able to put words together on paper or computer. It's been a blessing for me that I was forced into this early, writing letters home. And writing interminable answers to essay questions at Sweet Briar. I never finished an exam. I always had more to say—although not necessarily about the question asked...

Thank you for letting me come, I've had a lovely time. I wish all good things to all of you, always.

A New Consciousness

1946-1956

World War II was over. What would a peacetime college experience be like? Students in 1946 had known a campus operating under wartime conditions, in an environment geared to the restrictions of a nation and a community putting forth every effort to win a devastating world conflict. Europe and Japan were on their knees and worldwide suffering was at its peak in this year, the beginning of the atomic age.

Students and faculty were still numb over Hiroshima and Nagasaki but united in their feeling that it was fortunate that we and not the rest of the world had the atomic secrets. We were still feeling nationalistic and superior. We had won the

war but were not blind to the fact that there were many things we could do to help an exhausted world recuperate.

Sweet Briar was starting with a clean slate and a new consciousness. We began 1946 with a new, internationally-minded president, Dr. Martha Lucas. President Glass had retired after 21 years. During her tenure the College had grown, the student body and



By Ann Marshall Whitley '47

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 75th Anniversary Issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Copy edited for length

Students at dining cabin, 1952

Eleanor Roosevelt's Informal Visit Snowballed Into a Major Event

To this day, Jean Taylor '49 and Eleanor Potts Snodgrass '48 can still picture the former first lady and U.S. delegate to the United Nations, Eleanor Roosevelt, speaking before an overflow crowd in Sweet Briar's Williams Gymnasium. "Mrs. Roosevelt," says Jean, "was not prepared to give a speech. She came to the College expecting to talk with 12 to 15 members of the International Relations Club (IRC). She was not apprised of the change in plans until she got here."

"Wayne Stokes Goodall '48 reminded me that when she was on the International Relations Committee with [classmates] Jennie Belle Bechtel and Suzonne Hardy, someone said that Eleanor Roosevelt was going to Chatham Hall to speak," recalls Eleanor. "Wayne wrote to her and asked her to come to Sweet Briar first. Mrs. Roosevelt accepted, so Mortho von Briesen '31, SBC's director of public relations, sent lots of publicity to various newspapers. Wayne and I remember that the gym was packed with people from Lynchburg and the surrounding area, and that Suzanne Hardy gave an excellent introduction."

"We were all so impressed," adds Jean. "She walked to the podium and gave an eloquent, impromptu speech about the role of the United Nations and the United States in the world. The place was jam-packed—hundreds of us were crowded in there—but she took it in stride. It was one of those moments you never forget."

"During lunch in the Refectory," continues Eleanor, "Wayne and Suzanne had the pleasure of sitting next to Mrs. Roosevelt and thoroughly enjoyed her. After lunch, Miss Glass' chauffeur drove her to Chothom Hall."



Eleanor Roosevelt and Professor Gerhord Mosur chat with students

faculty had increased and the endowment was rising. She had steered the College through the depression and war years. Meta Glass retired to Farmington in Charlottesville, where girls would often see her erect and dignified figure on the street, walking stick in hand, green cape flying. She was an active participant in the Charlottesville community, acting with the Rotunda Players, serving as administrator for Stuart Hall, and staying "a flaming Democrat" to the end!

Dr. Lucas, inaugurated November 1, 1946, was a

young, articulate former dean of Radcliffe. We anticipated a great shaking and reshaping of Sweet Briar's ivy-covered walls, both physically and intellectually—a new and invigorated campus. With Miss Lucas and the bomb how could we lose?

A miracle happened: a five-day holiday was given for Thanksgiving, and Mid-Winters' dances were reinstated. Nearly as important, students no longer had to perform volunteer waitress duty. This happy announcement was made by Mrs. Linda Brown, director of food services.

Sweet Briar had always been dependent on trains and buses, but students began to clamor in earnest for the right to have a car on campus, at least for the seniors. The May 19, 1948 *News* announced: "Any senior wishing to avail herself of the privilege of having her own car on campus after her last examination must register the car with Miss Jester in the Dean's office." The opening wedge had been driven but it was some years before student cars were welcome, and then only because Trailways sharply curtailed service between Lynchburg and



Amherst and trains ran less often. There was heavy debate; when one faculty member referred to student cars as "pure frivolity" it created an uproar. It also elicited a strong response in the *News*: "Cars will not cause frivolity as claimed, but seniors will find them a convenience in carrying out their community responsibilities." Finally cars became a necessity due to poor public transportation.

In the late '40s to everyone's surprise, Lynchburg built an airport. This great step into the future was an unpaved grass strip and one World War II Quonset hut with a jaunty red-and-white striped wind sock! Some students began to fly. Most students and faculty had never flown before, but the novelty eventually became a necessity. In the late '40s and early '50s most preferred the relative safety of trains and buses. The first students to use commercial airlines were considered heroines.

The College catalog indicates a sign of the times: "Due to increased cost of food and wages, Sweet Briar regretfully must add \$35 to the fee for 1946-47, making the total \$1,135." The comprehensive fee gradually increased; by 1956 it had reached \$2,000, an increase of \$865 in ten years. Inflation had begun but

was only creeping, not galloping. The student activity fee was raised in the late '40s to \$30; there was heated campus discussion over that, too.

The *Sweet Briar News* and other SBC publications had good support from the Lynchburg stores and shops. "Buy a new-look Handmacher suit at Millners for \$20 or a Palm Beach suit for \$25." In the early '50s Katherine Gibbs advertised in the *News*, "We offer the very best secretarial training in the East for college graduates."

Since young men were a new commodity on campus after the war and the various parlors were getting a lot of business, a "date house" seemed a good idea. Boxwood Inn was always overcrowded, so an early postwar building project resulted in a date house where students could prepare simple food, listen to a record player, dance, and play bridge. Chaperones had vanished during the war as there was nothing to chaperone; the custom was not reinstated.

In 1952 seniors were permitted to have cars on campus after spring vacation. Times were changing. Some faculty members began to live off-campus; others began to build private homes on campus property. Harriet Rogers and Lucy Crawford had broken



Joanne Holbrook Patton '52

Remembers Significant People, Events

I remember from my freshman year the awareness many of us received from then-President Martha Lucas, of our place as a member of the international community. With her personal dedication to United Nations programs (later, specifically UNESCO), she brought speakers to campus and encouraged student organizations that opened us to issues and cultures we later came to appreciate as vital to our education. Although the international students on campus and overseas learning opportunities may have been initiated before her tenure, I am sure that her passions promoted their permanence. The result is that "little old Sweet Briar" has had a window on the world that has been much wider than that of most Southern colleges, giving it a present-day international recognition and sophistication beyond many of its larger peers, with its students far more ready to "bloom where they are (trans)planted," no matter where that may turn out to be.

Throughout the years, the College has attracted many superstars as speakers and visitors. In my undergraduate time, two stand out as affecting me: one was W. H. Auden, who came to campus as a guest of the English Department, giving readings and visiting with student groups. (We knew from what we had read of him that he had a taste for alcohol, and when he sat at a student table in the Refectory one evening, we took note of a suspicious bulge in his back pocket which we identified as his flask!)



W.H. Auden

The other was an inadvertent moment in history: the concert given by Leontyne Price, accompanied by the mother of an SBC student. Leontyne was just getting started in her career, so we did not appreciate the privilege of hearing her—until she sang. It was stunning! We loved the performance, of course, but could not have guessed that she would become one of the foremost divas in American musical history.

Highlighting great teachers: in my time at Sweet Briar, Lawrence Nelson, my English professor, was the star. Another was Dean Hosken, a Quaker who taught comparative religions—brilliantly! Both made us think "out of the box"...they were important to my life directions, and I thank them frequently in retrospect. Two others, from whom I never took a course, but who were, in their way, great teachers to us were Milan

Hapala and Jessie Melville Fraser [history]. Dr. Hapala's informal sharings with us outside of class were always meaningful and memorable. "Miss" Fraser, as we called her, was my advisor when I edited the yearbook as a junior. When I conferred with her about my elaborate plans for the *Briar Patch*, she said to me, "Before you do anything more, I want you to go out to the dell, sit down on the grass and quietly think." What she meant, of course, was "meditate," on the views and values of Sweet Briar, letting them be my guide and inspiration. She was right!

Sweet Briar started a pig farm experiment.

Within days after the purchase of the first sow, she had ten piglets, a great return on the initial investment!

May Day dance, 1954

the ice years before by building Red Top.

Students still had all their laundry taken care of weekly by the SBC laundry. Twenty-four laundresses washed and ironed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with 30 minutes off for lunch; they received 55 cents an hour. The laundry made its own distinctive soap (bars, powder and flake). This was boiled to a liquid for easy handling—the formula dated from 1906. Sheets and linens came out snowy white, but so did colored things occasionally. Reds turned pink, orange turned yellow, blues came back green. No one complained because it was better than doing laundry yourself.

The Sweet Briar Hunt was organized in February 1948 with 20 charter members. They had seven of their own hounds to start their drag hunting; the pack was later increased to six pairs. During the war there had been two paper chases a week, better than nothing, but a pale imitation of drag hunting, according to the aficionados.

Things began to happen on the Sweet Briar farm after the war. When Joe Gilchrist became farm manager, he implemented new, experimental programs of great interest throughout the County. He bought a fine new bull for the cattle barn. A Sweet Briar cow



won top butterfat honors in the Lynchburg Dairy Herd Improvement Association. In view of the severe world food shortage as we went into the Cold War, Sweet Briar started a pig farm experiment. Within days after the purchase of the first sow, she had ten piglets, a great return on the initial investment!

A huge food conservation effort was made by Mrs. Brown. Five cooks and three bakers worked seven days a week making all our bread, rolls and cakes. Mrs. Brown omitted bread at one meal per day, saving by 1/3 the use of margarine. She cut to a minimum the use of fried food to save fat: it took ten gallons of fat to fry food for one meal.

As Europe and Japan remained in ruins and the Cold War became a grim real-

ity, the students, faculty and staff, concerned over the world situation, began thinking of ways to help schools, individuals, and the world through their efforts. The Class of 1947 joined the Foster Parents Plan, adopting a French boy and a Polish boy. A student was sent to England for the Student Service Conference at Girton

College, Cambridge, to learn to understand the world situation and to be an American student ambassador. Petitions were sent to President Truman for an assurance of world peace and for limitation of the arms race; students and faculty argued the pros and cons of a continued draft to keep the peace until the fledgling U.N. could gain strength; the



The new Dew Dormitory, 1956



**Cornerstone laying, Dew Dorm
Kay Smith '56, President of
Student Government, President
Pannell, Mrs. William Bland
Dew, Sterling Jones**

Student Fund Committee sent \$100 to Athens University, which had been devastated; SBC sent \$1,500 to the World Student Service Fund to promote peace and education; books were sent to the University of Caen in France; one hundred pairs of shoes were sent from our students to students in Norway. SBC joined the Save the Children Foundation and adopted an entire French school with \$5,227.45 raised on our campus; a collection was made to buy an art reflectoscope for the art department at the University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Money was raised for the March of Dimes and the Cancer Fund, and contributions made to the Leprosy Foundation.

The world was trying to

right itself, and the Sweet Briar community was eager to learn how it could help. When Sir Winston Churchill came to Richmond with Eisenhower, Sweet Briar was there. When the *New York Herald Tribune* Forum held forth on "The Struggle of Justice as a World Force" with such giants as Paul Henri Spaak, Jan Christian Smuts, Jan Masaryk, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Eisenhower, Sweet Briar was there. When Dr. Lise Meitner, the German physicist, who with others came forth with the formula on atom-splitting, came to Sweet Briar the entire student body, faculty, staff and most of Amherst County was there.

As we advanced into the '50s, into the Korean conflict and Communist conspiracies,

we became less optimistic. Sweet Briar did not close its eyes, however, and continued to push for a better understanding and a better world. This was our legacy from Martha Lucas, who had a deep religious conviction and a passionate concern for the brotherhood of man and the entire human family. It was a philosophy of never give up, but defend the principles of freedom and condemn those who seek to repress freedom. Miss Lucas did temper her feeling in one report when she said, "In this period of human history an optimist is being defined as one who thinks the future is uncertain." The students said, "Amen."

Miss Lucas left the College with the Class of 1950. She had entered with them in 1946 and departed with the final admonition that students exercise their freedom and always oppose what they thought was wrong.

Dr. Anne Gary Pannell in 1950 became Sweet Briar's fifth president. She came with her two young sons. Two boys in Sweet Briar House! This enlivened the old mansion where no children had lived since the days of Daisy. Rumor has it that one night the boys took their B-B guns and went around campus shooting out all the lights; their comrade in misadventure

*Much remained the same:
the reflecting pond was
still in front of the
library; the frogs
croaked their heads off
on spring nights, mak-
ing ears and heads buzz
in the gallery; the zool-
ogy students, who seined
eggs there as well as in
the Dell pond, didn't seine
enough: the frogs took
over.*



Outdoor dance class, 1951



Helen Addington Passano '55: Lasting Impressions

Professors Masur, Hapala, Crawford, and Miss Rogers, plus President Pannell have had lasting impressions on me.

Meeting and living with classmates from many parts of the country also played a big part in extending my provincial life as a native Virginian.

The magnificent setting of pleasingly-designed buildings on the plateau at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains always gave me a lift (and still does).

I am pleased that there was no "turning point" in regard to turning into a coed copycat...that we stayed the course and continue as an all-female institution with its unique stewardship of women.

How pleased I am to anticipate our Centennial!

was Chip Wood, son of Elizabeth Bond '34. The boys, the story goes, had to pay for damages.

Much remained the same: the reflecting pond was still in front of the library; the frogs croaked their heads off on spring nights, making ears and heads buzz in the gallery; the zoology students, who seined eggs there as well as in the Dell pond, didn't seine enough: the frogs took over.

Captain Littauer and Miss Constance Applebee made their yearly visits, shaking up riders and hockey players for days before their clinics. There were sighs of relief in the dorms at their departures. They were both experts in their fields, but many a student would wake in a cold sweat at night with the words echoing in her ears: "RUN. RUN. RUN. YOU FOOL!" courtesy of Miss Applebee; or Captain Littauer's "Hands down and MORE LEG!"

The College exhorted the community to be more careful in the use of electricity in the

'50s. After a survey, the treasurer reported that 20 percent of the electricity was wasted on campus "through sheer carelessness and negligence." In return, students made a survey, reporting that 46 percent of the student body wore glasses and demanding better lights, especially in the Browsing Room. Their motto was "Shun all 60-watt bulbs to save your sight."

In 1948-49 Sweet Briar took over the junior Year in France Program from the University of Delaware. SBC was concerned that men would not enroll in a program with a name as feminine as "Sweet Briar," but the largest group to go the first year was from Yale! One of the boys was so carried away he wondered if Sweet Briar might have a senior year in Paris also.

In 1949 Sweet Briar was awarded a charter for the Theta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Membership had been withheld previously because of the lack of a proper number

Junior Year in France Anniversary

What It Meant to Many

By Mary Morris Gamble Booth '50

Excerpted from her address at the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 1973

My only claim to notability is that I am the oldest alumna of The Sweet Briar Junior Year in France. I am what they mean when they say, "ancienne élève."

My mission tonight is to thank, on behalf of all Junior Year alumni, the people whose foresight and wisdom made our year abroad possible. We shall be eternally indebted to Mrs. Pate who had the vision and temerity to grasp the Junior Year franchise for Sweet Briar College; to Dr. Anderson who guided our pioneer group with such kindness, firmness, and good humor; to Professor Peyre who sent those 14 dashing Yale men with the first Sweet Briar group; [and to] dear Dr. Barker, whose idea the whole scheme was in the first place...I still remember how his eyes twinkled when he told me the glorious news that The Sweet Briar Junior Year in France was a reality! And I remember what a comfort he and Mrs. Barker were to us when we returned to Sweet Briar for our senior year and had to make the adjustment back to Amherst County from Paris!

When we, the first group, arrived in France in August of 1948, the aftereffects of World War II were still much in evidence. Due to a shortage of coal, we had no electricity two days a week and no heat until long after it was cold enough for our fingers to grow numb around our pencils in class. Many foods were rationed and most of the girls in the group had to live at Reid Hall, there being very few French families at that time in a position to "adopt" American students. But "our hearts were young and gay" and nothing could lessen the excitement of being 20 and in Paris!

We went abroad that first year not just in the pursuit of excitement—we did study very hard—but some of us also went in pursuit of the Tennysonian ideal of "the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world." This, I regret to say, we were not able to accomplish during our year abroad.

But surely all of us have achieved a greater understanding and appreciation of other people. We have all made lasting friendships with French and American students who shared the year with us—in fact, a number of marriages have resulted from this venture into international relations. And in unexpected ways, other delightful friendships are fostered by the Junior Year experience. I had the good fortune several years ago to meet the renowned historian, Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison. In the course of our conversation, it developed that we were fellow alumni of "Sciences Po,"

although our years were different: he was there in 1914. We enjoyed comparing notes on our old school, and he subsequently gave me one of his books inscribed, "To Mary Morris Booth, from her Sciences Po beau. Samuel Eliot Morison."



President Pannell seeing off the 1959 JYF group.

Due to a shortage of coal, we had no electricity two days a week and no heat until long after it was cold enough for our fingers to grow numb around our pencils in class.

Many Junior Year graduates have gone into the study and teaching of French professionally as a result of our year; all of us have an abiding appreciation of French culture. Due to an interest in French drama first generated by the theatre course in Paris, I have attended a little French play-reading class at Randolph-Macon Woman's College once a week for the past ten years. In that time we have managed to read almost every French play that is fit to print—and some that are not!

Surely all Sweet Briar Junior Year in France alumni will enjoy things French for the rest of our lives. Not long ago, as I scurried about the Hollins College campus in quest of a speaker for the Lynchburg Alliance Française, a member of the administration of the college was heard to remark, "Once a Junior Year girl, always a Junior Year girl." So be it.



A parents' welcome, 1954

of books in the library. This award placed the College among the elite for academic excellence.

During the early '50s the College wanted to expand to 500 students but dormitory capacity was only 445; until Dew Dormitory was completed in 1956, students were tucked into every available nook on campus. Seventeen moved into Boxwood Inn, ten went into Sweet Briar House, some moved in with faculty, and others doubled up. One alumna remembers those years as "Operation Sardine." Boxwood Inn was a combination of dorm/steakhouse. Inn manager Lois Ballenger advertised steak dinners (complete) for \$2.75, while a dozen or more students thun-

dered overhead.

A big building program was initiated in the early '50s and more funds for endowment were sought. Mrs. Pannell found herself going from coast to coast following a punishing schedule to promote the College. By the spring of 1956 more than \$1,600,000 had been given or pledged. The expansion of the College, its new buildings, diverse curriculum, increased faculty salaries and solvency in 1976 are due in large part to Anne Gary Pannell's ceaseless efforts during her years as chief administrator. She practiced what she preached: "Thinkers have to be heroes as well as idealists."

All along the way crises were met as they arose. When



Elizabeth Sprague with student, 1952

Hurricane Hazel toppled 1,000 trees on campus in 1954. Sweet Briar sold the lumber, making a profit. When the library was missing 93 books, a published plea brought them all back. When Rocky Mountain spotted fever appeared in the County, the infirmary moved in with sharp needles and vaccine. When Boxwood Inn fell upon hard times, the students lovingly took over. There was a solution to just about everything during those years. Sweet Briar under President Pannell's leadership was overcoming its odds and beginning to look with hope and assurance to its 100th birthday.



PVD and Hazel Impact Sweet Briar, Both With Lasting Effect

By Nancy Godwin Baldwin '57

Excerpted from remarks delivered during 1986 Reunion

A tribute to Peter Daniel as he retired

Peter Vivian Daniel was a young man fresh from the world of big city banks when he arrived at Sweet Briar College in August of 1954. Not very long before that he had been unfamiliar with Sweet Briar: he explains that as a married graduate student at UVA he never visited the campus. Therefore when President Anne Pannell telephoned him to ask if he might be interested in the position of Assistant to the President and Treasurer of the College, he "really didn't know." About to depart for a stint of National Guard duty at summer camp, he promised to think about it.

Mrs. Pannell telephoned again, saying that she would like to come to Richmond to see him. Not sure where exactly Sweet Briar was located, he suggested that she be in his office at the State Planters Bank at 9:00 the following morning. In those days Richmond was a 2 1/2-hour drive, but she was there at the hour's strike and Peter remembers being "absolutely intrigued by this person, her philosophies and goals for the College." The more he listened, the more interested he became in Sweet Briar.

Thirty-two years, two grown sons and much water over the dam later, he recalls that first autumn of his arrival on campus and his first two Big Problems as a new administrator. Problem #1 was that no water was going over the dam: Central Virginia was suffering a major drought. The College depended entirely then on one large lake for its water supply (the second lake was not filled until 1960). When the students came in mid-September, the water level was extremely low and dropping by the day. By October the question he faced was whether or not the students would have to be sent home and the College closed. As the drought continued he prepared to have water trucked in to keep the College open.

The first view most of the students had of him was at a required convocation, called to apprise the community of the desperate situation. An incredulous student body listened to Peter's unbelievable admonishments: there would be no drinking water at meals, taps were not to be left on while we brushed our teeth, we must rinse only (to this day I am morally unable to let the water run!) and finally the real blow—showers/baths could be taken either Friday or Saturday but not both days. Each student was to be allowed only three such indulgences a week "for the duration." He suggested bathless Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays or Saturdays



Hurricane Hazel's destruction, 1954

but left it to us to devise our own schedules.

I remember this period vividly because it occurred during the only six weeks of my life when I have been closer to a horse than a field away. I was taking riding that fall to fulfill a physical education requirement. You may be interested to know that there is not enough Arpege in the world to counteract the aroma of the stable; people blanched and drifted away when they sensed riders approaching.

The class of 1957 honored him at Fall Step-singing with a song to the tune of the old round "Frere Jacques." It began "Bad News Peter, Bad News Peter, Said no baths, Said no baths" and ended "Then came Hazel." In a few hours' time in mid-October, Hurricane Hazel filled the lake, downed some 1,000 trees on campus and gave Peter his second big problem: making the Refectory safe, since Hazel had weakened it structurally. He must have felt the irony of leaving the pressures of city life for the tranquility of a college in the country.

Peter's staff in 1954 consisted of himself, Assistant Treasurer Mabel Chipley and the late Rebecca Carroll, who ran Sweet Briar's bank window until her retirement in 1974. His office equipment included a hand-cranked bookkeeping machine and Rebecca's "money-making machine" with which she entertained students and faculty by demonstrating in periods when there wasn't a run on the bank. She would insert a dollar bill into the "machine," turn the handle and withdraw a five-dollar bill.

This delighted all comers until a faculty wife mentioned in Lynchburg that Sweet Briar "made" its own money, she had witnessed it! Peter had no choice but to confiscate Rebecca's

"Bad News Peter" is not the only soubriquet by which he was blessed. Well-known for the great care with which he handled Sweet Briar's money, he was a terror to anyone whose departmental budget was overexpended by any amount.

toy to avoid a confrontation with the FBI.

"Bad News Peter" is not the only soubriquet by which he was blessed. Well-known for the great care with which he handled Sweet Briar's money, he was a terror to anyone whose departmental budget was overexpended by any amount. On one occasion the state of the admissions budget exceeded all expectations in expenditures. When this came to his attention, Peter reached for the telephone, not that he needed it that day to be heard a floor away. Mrs. Eddie White, admissions office manager probably for longer than Peter had been alive at that point, and somewhat a character herself, was ready for him. To his "THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BUDGET IS IN TROUBLE!", she replied softly, "Why, Cary, hello." (Silence on Peter's end of the line). "Have I ever told you that you remind me of Cary Grant? You do, you know." Neither the principals in this incident nor any other residents of Fletcher at that time have ever forgotten. For a while, some of the budgetary memos were addressed to Cary Grant, Vice President and Treasurer.

Besides being a devotee of fiscal responsibility, Peter was a veteran of many fund-raising efforts. He oversaw the programming, planning and construction of Dew, Babcock, the Chapel, the Rogers Riding Center, Guion, Meta Glass, the Wailes Center, the Prothro Natatorium, the Book Shop, Prothro Commons, and the Dana Wing of the Mary Helen Cochran Library, as well as the renovations of Benedict, the "Music Box," the nursery school building, the dairy, Fletcher, and the Refectory. And Reid Dining Room became The Pit. The old lake was drained so that its leaking dam could be repaired (the 1904 mortar gave way and the dam was shored up with pipes until it could be fixed, causing it to loak, in Peter's words, "like a toothless wonder"). A second lake was added to supplement the water supply. Mt. St. Angelo was reacquired through a gift/purchase arrangement and became the home of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. When fire razed the mansion in 1979, new quarters

for the VCCA were built on the land. The road system through the campus was redirected and parking lots constructed as increasing numbers of students brought cars to college.

Survivor of countless negotiations in aid of all this progress, he remembers particularly Charles Dana's visit to Sweet Briar. Mr. Dana wished to see the College before considering a grant. President Pannell asked Martha von Briesen '31 (then director of public relations) to present the library wing project and Peter was to speak for an administration building. When Mr. Dana arrived, everyone was seated around a table to discuss various uses to which a grant might be put. Peter was "about four sentences" into his presentation when Mr. Dana broke in. He was sorry to interrupt, he said, but he couldn't care less about an administration building. For all he cared, he continued, the administration could work in the basement! Peter sat down. The Dana Foundation made a grant for the library wing.



Peter Daniel learns the Twist, 1962



Daniel coached a very successful Sweet Briar diving team

Many gifts were presented to the College during Peter's tenure. Two unusual ones stand out to him as especially memorable: a pair of peacocks and the Southern Railroad Station. The peacocks began strolling the grounds during a summer in the '60s, in the quieter days before Dennis Vander Meer's tennis enthusiasts and other groups were in residence for a full schedule of summer programs. After the first surprised sightings, they became less of a curiosity—their strolls were commonplace. Fall came, the students returned and the peacocks, perhaps stimulated by more activity, began breaking their evening naps in the trees surrounding Sweet Briar House by calling to each other. A peacock's high shriek sounds rather like a human's cry for "HELP! HELP!" The startled reactions of overnight guests at Sweet Briar House were matched in intensity by those of the night watchmen; all were sure every time a peacock gave voice that some student was in terrible trouble out there somewhere. Peter had to farm out the fowls.

The Sweet Briar Station was the gift of the Southern Railroad when the train stop was discontinued. Southern kindly offered to move it to the campus. Unfortunately the move took place while the ground was soft from autumn rains. The station spent a long winter mired in mud in the field below the dairy, another curiosity for visitors and a daily reminder to Peter that nothing is ever easy.

Peter's reminiscences suggest that a major requirement of his job was that he be ready for anything:

- Calming a college president whose youngest son and a pilot have just disrupted a hockey game by landing their disabled airplane in a cornfield adjacent to the hockey field;

- Reassuring a future president of the United States (Richard Nixon) who, on disembarking from the train at Sweet Briar Station with his wife and daughter Tricia, spies a station wagon sporting a full gun rack...three days after President John F. Kennedy was shot in November of 1963
- Coaching a very successful Sweet Briar diving team;
- Preparing for the College's "day in court" in the 1965 law suit;
- Sponsoring two classes (1962 and 1966);
- Helping to set up a new Junior Year Abroad program with the University of Seville;
- Operating a beauty parlor in the basement of the gymnasium;
- Acting as fire chief of Sweet Briar, rendering "fireside chats" to the students and conducting fire drills

In the fall of 1979, the Sweet Briar Board of Directors and Overseers proclaimed "Peter Daniel Day" in celebration of 25 years of his being ready for anything in his service to Sweet Briar. The Board acknowledged that day that Peter also had made the College "ready for anything": his money management, of course, is legendary. At the time of his retirement in 1986, Sweet Briar College had operated in the black for 32 years, perhaps the only educational institution in the northern hemisphere to do so continuously. Peter would not allow the College to be in the red—he didn't believe in it! President Harold Whiteman lauded him at some length at a faculty meeting for his skillful wielding of college funds. The next day Mme. Sommerville, professor of French, crossed paths with Peter's wife Lydia at the post office. "So wonderful," Mme. Sommerville said smilingly, "that Peter has kept us in the dark!"

Thank you, PVD, for keeping us in the dark.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Sweet Briar

1956-1966

June 4, 1956—I don't remember a lot about that day, which happened to be the day I graduated from Sweet Briar. I remember the sun came out after a drenching weekend and that I was the only non-honor graduate to whom Mrs. Pannell said more than "Congratulations". (She said, "I'm so glad you kept your hat on," something I was having trouble doing during rehearsal.) I remember asking a friend who had come from Connecticut to see me graduate to run back to Gray to see if my camera was in the car. She returned breathlessly to tell me it was but didn't bring it with her. Therefore, I have no pictorial record of that important day.



*By Byrd Stone '56
Excerpted from her
article in the Fall 1976
75th Anniversary Issue
of the Alumnae
Magazine
Copy edited for length*

Failure to wear Bermuda shorts in the correct manner as indicated in the Handbook and by the Social Committee will result in a student's privilege of wearing Bermuda shorts being removed for a period of one week.

Little did I know as we drove out of the gates that afternoon, almost the last '56 graduate to leave because I had neglected to pack ahead of time, that I would return nine years later as a member of the faculty [director, Campus School]. After recently spending several days closeted in the Sweet Briar Library archives, catching up with things between the time I left and the time I returned, I find it interesting to note similarities in 1976 and 1956. Yet just when I think, "Why, things haven't really changed so much," I'm hit with something totally out of the past.

After reading *Sweet Briar News* articles concerning apathy, lack of attendance at lectures and concerts, sophomore discontent, isolation despairs, and criticism of courses, I double-checked the dates of the papers to make sure I hadn't stumbled into 1976 instead of 20 years ago. However, upon further reading, I came upon the following item in a May '57 issue:

Failure to wear Bermuda shorts in the correct manner as indicated in the Handbook and by the Social Committee will result in a student's privilege of wearing Bermuda shorts being removed for a period of one week.

I wondered briefly if the Social Committee was going to remove the privilege, the shorts

or both...but at least I knew I was in the right decade.

Reading on I found recommendations for what to wear on Mid-winters Weekend; i.e., a "dressy wool dress or one of the newer cocktail suits with jeweled collars or a touch of fur. An understated taffeta would also be appropriate." I thought of an instance a few years ago when one of my student teachers informed me that she was unable to go on a field trip with the children because I had said students must wear dresses and she did not have one dress on campus. Somehow "understated taffeta" seemed far away as I picked up my cane, repositioned my teeth, and headed home from the archives to take a slug of Geritol before dinner.

On a more serious note, the Sweet Briar of the '56-'66 decade appeared, at least from my reading, to be one of great change progressing (regressing?)

rapidly, albeit subtly, toward the climactic late '60s. In 1956 Sweet Briar's endowment was \$1,500,000; alumnae-giving was the largest in the history of the College, and it cost \$2,414 for the College to educate a student, although the comprehensive fee was \$2,000. However, forewarned is forearmed: an editorial in the October 3, 1956, *SB News* noted that "prices may continue to rise..."

In the fall of '56 the first students were living in Dew Dormitory, ecstatic over the fact that there were two phones on each hall and that one did not have to yell "flushing" when someone else was taking a shower.

In a mock election held on campus the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket won over the Stevenson-Kefauver one and a discussion was held concerning integration and states' rights. The big news, however, concerned the possibil-

ity of Sweet Briar's getting dial telephones, and the relaxation of the hotel-motel rule so that students would be permitted to go into rooms in the Charlottesville/Lexington areas with their dates if the date's parents were present. Oh wow! Students were also allowed to take "lates" at Tommie's without special permission. Since Tommie's closed at 11:00 p.m. I don't really know what made this newsworthy.

A new course for seniors, "Problems in Perspective," was in the cookbook stage. It was to be concerned with problems of contemporary importance to humanity. The first two topics being considered were "Juvenile Delinquency" and "Latin America." One cannot help but wonder how, from all of the

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Sweet Tanes perform at Midwinters, 1957



Top left, Professor Bates, language lab 1957
Above, Victoria Buckingham and Virginia "Gina" Weed, 1957

problems of humanity, these two were singled out.

In this present era of ERA (I couldn't resist that), I couldn't help but laugh (quietly, in the archives) as the *News* noted that Sweet Briar was to sponsor a conference on "Woman Power" and a few columns further on "Students Choose May Queen." I know this is significant; I just can't put my finger on why.

As the students of 1976 are continuing to question the value of a liberal arts education and the faculty has spent a good part of the year discussing distribution requirements, I found the following headlines in a spring '57 *News* rather timely:

Liberal Arts Education
Frees Mind

Seniors Realize Opportunity
Missed

Required Courses Supply
Good Restraint

I think I'll run off reprints.

In the spring of 1957 the proposal for a chapel fund was made. In the fall of '57 the Board approved plans to build a \$750,000 fine arts center. Under the able and inspired leadership of Dr. Anne Gary Pannell, Sweet Briar was growing rapidly but with taste and vision. In this time of expansion for so many colleges, Sweet Briar continued to do it in the best possible way. Fall 1957 brought violence to Little Rock, Reid was given a smoker, and cane-bottomed chairs in Benedict (nee

Academic) were replaced. There were all of 15 cars on campus belonging to students—seniors, of course. The Patchbox (campus beauty parlor) got new operators, Saturday morning classes were going strong, and it was announced that rugs in students' rooms might not exceed 4'x 6' as it made it too difficult for the maids to clean the rooms.

Interest was high in having a course in nonwestern civilization. However, it took a number of years for this finally to be realized.

There was a symposium on "Modern Science and Human Values" in March '58. In that same year *Glamour* magazine sponsored a contest for the Ten Best Dressed College Girls of America and Sweet Briar girls were urged to enter. At the end of April this same year exactly three seniors knew definitely what they were going to do after college.

In September of '58 students returned to campus to find that the reflecting pool in front of the library was gone and that from then on they were to clean their own rooms. Also in 1958 \$6,851 was pledged to the Campus Chest. Were students more concerned in the late '50s or was it easier to give money than to offer a gift of self?

In the spring of 1959 the Committee on Instruction proposed a speech course for juniors. This was not met with fan-

tastic enthusiasm; the committee was urged to reconsider. Also that spring the faculty granted the students' request that they be permitted to assume individual responsibility for deciding the number of overnights they would take. The faculty would have had little choice as this was a legitimate request by supposedly mature young women. However, as one stands at the Information Office in 1976 and sees great numbers of students departing on Thursday to return on Monday, or later, one wonders if the faculty made the right decision.

Having sat on College Council as a faculty member during the late '60s when it was finally decided, with much discussion, that students could drink on campus, I found an editorial in an April 1959 *News* particularly interesting. It simply suggested that there be more driving time allotted between activities on campus and off during the May Day Weekend so that dates who had been drink-

ing would not have to exceed the speed limit. There was no request for alcohol on campus. I don't believe there was even any thought of it.

As I read through years of *News* issues, I kept wondering why they seem to be so much more readable than those of today. Could it be because of articles such as one in November of '59 which noted that certain "authorized" hunters (including Peter V. Daniel, Joseph Gilchrist, and the late Dr. Arthur Bates) were free during the week of November 23rd to reduce the squirrel populations? This was written, naturally, in all seriousness.

In January 1960 Arthur Schlesinger spoke at Sweet Briar on "Foreign Policy in the Atomic Age." That same month a student won a stereo from the Philip Morris Company by collecting 13,709 empty cigarette packs. I assume they were empty. Obviously the Surgeon General had not gotten to her yet.

College Offers Polio Injections

for the first time,
year, for the first time,
year, for the first time,
year, for the first time,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1956

Dear Mrs. Pannell:

Please extend my warm greetings to all who join in the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of Sweet Briar College.

Our country owes much to its private institutions of higher learning, including its small, independent liberal arts colleges for women. I applaud the contribution which Sweet Briar has made to the educational and cultural life of America.

On Commencement Day I hope you will extend my congratulations to the members of the graduating class. I join with them, and with their teachers and friends, in saluting the College on its jubilee year, and in looking forward to an even finer second half-century for Sweet Briar.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower



Students enjoy tea, 1957

Iren Marik was continuing to play benefit concerts while Captain Littauer conducted yet another Horsemanship Clinic. The average salary for the instructor rank at Sweet Briar

was \$4,174, and the freshman class complained that Sweet Briar lacked stimulation and that a "wastebasket of apathy" cluttered the souls of students. Now that's got class! Obviously the

Executive Board, which had announced in September that it was planning to create opportunities for students to develop qualities such as "independent and creative thinking," "awareness of responsibility to the community and the country," and a "desire for learning," had a problem.

Though Sweet Briar might have been a wastebasket of apathy in 1960, the Bloodmobile managed to collect 154 pints of blood even though there was a snowstorm and no one off-campus could get there. Certainly the wastebasket has turned into a trash barrel in 1976, when those of us working at the Bloodmobile are ecstatic over 90-some pints, without a snowstorm.

The racial situation was rife during these years, but SBC students appeared to look the other way, if the *News* is any indication. Although public schools had been closed for two years in a nearby community, the first real mention of any problem was in April 1960 when one editorial appeared referring to the problem.

At the end of the 1959-60 academic year, two longtime members of the Sweet Briar community retired—Mrs. Bertha Wailes '17 and Miss Gladys Boone. Both remained in the area, active in Sweet Briar and local community affairs.

As the 1960-61 year opened,



Holiday loveliness for your hair
Call for appointment — Sweet Briar 119
PATCH BOX BEAUTY SALON

*...the freshman class
complained that Sweet
Briar lacked stimulation
and that a "wastebasket
of apathy" cluttered the
souls of students.*



Drawing by Gwen Speel '60



The Fabulous Fifties: Nannette McBurney Crowdus '57 puts the era in perspective

The 1950s produced some of the most compatible, tightly-knit classes Sweet Briar has ever seen. The students—greater in number than the College was equipped to handle—quickly overcame pronounced regional differences to form broad social networks and enduring friendships.

In an era renowned and often criticized for its conformist tendencies, the fifties classes at Sweet Briar may have coalesced for reasons that were far more basic and tangible: a lack of dormitory space coupled with antiquated plumbing and severe weather.

Before Dew dormitory was completed in the fall of 1956, the community was engaged in "Operation Sardine." Students arriving from every corner of the country—Massachusetts, California, Florida, Missouri, Connecticut, Texas, Colorado, New Jersey, Michigan—were packed into every square inch of available space, including the Boxwood Inn, Sweet Briar House, and faculty homes. Darn single rooms turned into doubles.

Cooperation was essential. In the dorms, students yelled "Flushing!" before doing so to avoid scalding their classmates in the showers—that is, when they were allowed to take showers. At the start of the 1954 academic year, years of drought and a leaky dam forced the community to ration water until Hurricane Hazel brought relief in mid-October.

"Everyone remembers Hazel," says Nannette McBurney Crowdus '57. "The wind and rain were so fierce, we had ropes strung between the dormitories so that students could pull themselves to the dining hall. There were lots of young men trapped in Grammer Commons with tight security so they couldn't possibly get near

young ladies during the night. There was no power and everyone pulled together."

Pulling together was a regular feature of student life in the 1950s. On Patchwork Day, classmates gathered to tackle serious chores like mending fences, raking leaves, planting roses, and whitewashing barns. "It created a sense of camaraderie," says Nannette. "Before television became a great leveler, the College had radically different cultures meeting in the dormitories. It wasn't just a matter of stateside and other countries, or North and South. In those days, Richmond, Virginia and Atlanta, Georgia were two very different places. It was shocking, a real eye opener."

Students also pulled together informally to plan dates and share rides. The campus was a lively crossroads, with waves of young men arriving on weekends from W&L, Penn, the Naval Academy, UVA, and Yale. "The world came to Sweet Brier," explains Nannette. "And we went out into the world—to places as close as Buck's or as far away as Paris—with the expectation that our



Patchwork Day, 1959



Refectory, 1958

'good taste and good judgment' would prevail. We were extremely independent. We played by the rules, of course. But the trust we were granted in return was enabling.

"It was the decade of conformity, of IBM and The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit. We didn't question the dress codes or the curfews—maybe, in part, because of the benefits. If you were out on a horrible date, it was great to be able to bat your eyes and say, sorry, I have to be home at midnight."

Similarities among students in the fifties went beyond a shared preference for knee socks, Bermuda shorts, and Berber raincoats. "Most of my classmates," says Nannette, "were academic and social achievers who were accustomed to seeing their mothers and grandmothers assume leadership roles in their communities. The big surprise, the thing that was amazing about Sweet Briar, was seeing women in professional roles."

Perhaps the most unifying and inspiring force behind SBC's fifties generation was President Anne Gary Pannell. "She had arrived," explains Nannette. "She was at her zenith, putting SBC on the map academically, maintaining a grueling travel schedule, raising millions of dollars for the College, and still taking time to teach a class. She made a lasting impression—especially on a group of students who were just beginning to become self-reliant, responsible adults."

"Sweet Briar was liberating. We didn't feel restricted. There was a reassuring structure in place that left us free to focus on and worry about other things, to prioritize, and make decisions. Everybody was in the same boat. Coming here changed our lives completely. As soon as we stepped on the train, the cord was cut. We were on our own. It was fabulous."

and with it a new decade, there appeared to be a new political awareness among the students. We moved from the "Do nothing '50s—the Silent Generation" to the "Swinging Sixties"; a generation of college students who were no longer Silent! This was an election year: Richard Nixon was running for the presidency, not away from it. I wondered, as I flipped through the October 5, 1960 *News*, who lived in Room 333—dormitory unknown. A photo showed the door plastered with pictures of and banners for Richard Milhous Nixon.

During 1960-61 a new chair in psychology was named for Dr. Helen K. Mull and we learned that she had bequeathed her home on Faculty Row to the College. It was to become the Deanery. Sweet Briar announced that there would be an Asian Studies Program in cooperation with R-MWC and Lynchburg College; Governor Edmundson of Oklahoma and Thurston B. Morton of Kentucky were on campus for Founders' Day; and a debate started over the need for a chapel versus the need for a science building. The era of beatniks was upon us, but as students in their matching McMullen skirts and sweaters planned for Billy Butterfield to play at Fall Weekend, it was difficult to believe.

Nixon won the mock elec-

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mitories so that students
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There was no power and
everyone pulled together.*

Sweet Briar's College Bowl Team was victorious over Colorado State and Hanover College but went down to defeat at the hands (or tongues) of Johns Hopkins, 1961.



tion over Kennedy; it was announced that the new Fine Arts Center would be named after Mary Reynolds Babcock, and there was much friendly kidding in the *News* about the "lowly freshmen." This I find interesting, because in 1976 I have freshman advisees who room with juniors, and I often find that I am unable to differentiate between freshmen and seniors in some of my classes.

There was much questioning of the Honor System at Sweet Briar during 1960-61, generally for the usual reasons of social versus academic life under the system. The Judicial Board was accused of "terrorist" tactics in their efforts to stop smoking in undesignated areas, causing multitudinous letters to the editor of the *News*, one with 192 signatures. Certainly that renowned apathy was not present in this case.



Brawn and Beauty

Excerpted from July 1961 Alumnae Magazine

Betsy Parker '63, Franklin, VA and Allison Jennings '64, New Canaan, CT are the new Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Doubles Champions. In a tennis tournament at Mary Baldwin College on May 19, they defeated their opponents from William and Mary 8-6, 6-1. This is the first time Sweet Briar players have won this championship.



Top, May Day, 1959
Above, Gwen Speel '60, foreground, at work in a math class

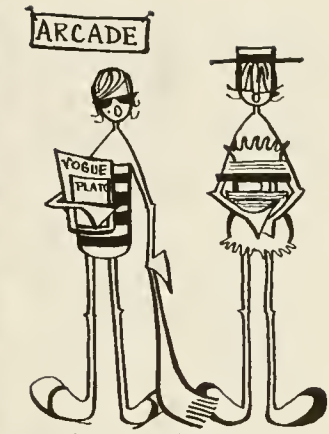
Sweet Briar's College Bowl Team was victorious over Colorado State and Hanover College but went down to defeat at the hands (or tongues) of Johns Hopkins. Construction was started on the new Book Shop, a contract was awarded for building the Meta Glass dormitory, and Alan Shepard became the first American spaceman.

In 1960-61 civil rights was the foremost domestic problem in the country. In Lynchburg six students were arrested at a drugstore during a sit-in, but they were not Sweet Briar students. In 1960-61 Dew got private telephones, Stewart Alsop spoke on campus, and The Brothers Four played for May Day.

"Decade of Dilemma" was the theme of the Executive Board as 1961-62 began. In the

orientation issue of the *News* an editorial noted that the usual carnival mood of orientation was absent, with thoughts instead on Berlin, Katanga, and Brazil. Thoughts of bomb shelters were prevalent and an aura of unease prevailed at Sweet Briar as it did over the rest of the country. Another editorial in the same September issue urged students not to take college for granted, to meet the challenge, and to decide how college was going to fit them for our ever-changing world. A note at the bottom of this timely piece of writing mentioned that it had first been published in the October 1, 1941 *Sweet Briar News*.

A meeting of the deans of various colleges in the area was concerned with the general messiness of girls (and boys) in their dress. Sweet Briar girls



Drawing by Gwen Speel '60

were wearing Bermudas to classes at other colleges and the general neatness of the students was criticized. Little did the powers that be know then....

Opening Convocation was held in the new Babcock Auditorium and Lester Lanin played for Fall Dance Weekend. The Curriculum Committee requested a five-day class week, radioactivity in the area increased fifty per cent, and speakers on campus included Margaret Mead, Norman Cousins and Madame Indira Nehru Gandhi.

When Sweet Briar opened in the fall of 1962, the National Student Association, an organization quite active during this decade, had debated all night at the national convention over the resumption of nuclear tests by the United States. When the vote was taken in the early morning hours, the decision by no more than 30 out of 1,500 votes cast, including one by the Sweet Briar delegate, was that "The United States National Student Association condemns all military and politically oriented tests of nuclear devices...and particularly condemns the Soviet government for having broken the thirty-four month moratorium." Even into the relatively ivory tower atmosphere of Sweet Briar, the world was encroaching. SB students at last seemed to feel that the world was in a mess and badly in need of help.

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Swimmers at the lake



A dance demonstration, ca. 1960



In October 1962 the student body sent a telegram to the Mississippi governor noting that by a vote of 423 to 124 the student body of Sweet Briar College condemned the illegality of his attempt "to supersede the law established by the federal courts" and also noting that they "deplore the violence and bloodshed which resulted from the action."

Although the *News* was full of national and international events, there were "domestic" items also. Meta Glass dormitory and dining room opened, the Kellogg Foundation gave Sweet Briar \$10,000 in book funds to improve its teacher education program, and the Freshman Fashion Show went on as usual. The Sweet Briar and Hamilton College choirs were invited to sing in the Evensong service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., and there was a symposium on "Religion and the Arts" for which 81 percent of the student body remained on campus on a weekend! Small wonder since the Symposium featured such renowned people as George Boas, Flannery O'Connor, John Ciardi and John Ranck, as well as our own Iren Marik, the Dance Group, and the Sweet Briar Choir.

The plea continued for juniors to have cars, The Lettermen performed for May Day, and Sweet Briar became the first col-

lege to win the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Doubles Title for three years in a row.

When college opened for 1963-64 the old gates had been restored at the entrance; the library was renovated; the chapel was on the drawing board; direct-distance dialing had arrived at Sweet Briar; and four Negro children in Birmingham were killed by a bomb while attending Sunday school.

The Board passed a resolution on November 2, 1963 which directed its Executive Committee "to take whatever legal action may be necessary and appropriate to secure a judicial determination as to whether we may, consistent with the charitable purposes of Indiana Fletcher Williams, admit qualified persons to Sweet Briar College, regardless of race." Thus began a long and harrowing battle for the Board and for President Pannell, which included voluminous and often threatening mail to various Board members, and references in Amherst County to Mrs. Pannell as "that disgraceful northern lady." Northern Alabama perhaps?

While litigation continued, Sweet Briar students mourned the death of President John F. Kennedy and realized anew that the outside world was affecting their lives even in Sweet Briar's relatively secluded atmosphere.

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Formals Salon Second Floor



Drawing by Gwen Speel '60



Professor Miriam Bennett in biology class

Foreword, 1961 Briar Patch

"...The history of the college and the plantation before it is all around us, but it is the present and the future which must occupy us.

Our world is not the one Doisy Williams knew. We live under the threat of world onnihilation. Students of Sweet Briar, like students everywhere, have studied the philosophies and actions of men. We are told we are the hope for the future and for President Kennedy's New Frontier...We are ready to answer the challenge of the present, while we are here and when we leave."

In the late fall Mrs. Pannell traveled to India for six weeks as a guest of the State Department, in order to help make arrangements to set up an exchange program between American and Indian women's colleges. Fund drives continued for the science building, and Miss Lucy Crawford, a longtime beloved member of the faculty, died. At the end of the school year, Dr. Carol Rice retired after 29 years of service as College physician. The 1963-64 year had been one of change and turmoil at Sweet Briar as well as in the outside world; and yet, though approaching the era of unrest of the late '60s, it was a subtle approach. Though moving toward changes which would forever affect the College, no one, at least outwardly, appeared aware of it.

Election year 1964-65. The Goldwater-Miller ticket was at Sweet Briar in a mock election causing a stir between faculty and students. This was not so much due to political fervor as to the fact that the faculty were miffed because they had not been properly informed of the time of voting and therefore did not participate as much as they might have liked.

Student-faculty teas which had been being held for years but without an overabundance of enthusiasm, were renamed "Chautauquas," after the intellectual gatherings held in New

England many years previous. Attendance immediately improved. The target date for the chapel was set for late in 1965, and Mr. Charles Dana offered a challenge grant of \$300,000 to be matched by December 1965. Juniors continued their plea for cars. Editorials were written concerning the disregard for Sweet Briar's dress regulations, and not only were students admonished for poor attendance at lectures and concerts, but the faculty was also!

The seeds of the "service to others" era were being sown as "Challenge" emerged. This was an organization formed to help those who needed tutoring, who were shut-ins or who needed to learn skills such as typing. I find it difficult to picture Sweet Briar girls TEACHING typing when they've been complaining ever since I was a student that they wanted to LEARN to type. But that's what the *News* said and I know it couldn't be wrong!

There had been much debate over the previous years concerning the Sweet Briar Song. Many versions were offered but one by Dr. Peter Penzoldt seemed to be indicative of the great building

program going on at the time: Sweet Briar, Sweet Briar.

Flower Fair
What racket fills thine country air.

When dozers roar and mowers blare

While we teach at Sweet Briar!

Anyone who has tried to lecture while buzz saws, power mowers and bulldozers work away right outside the windows, will immediately identify with Peter Penzoldt's version.

In a supplement to the January 13, 1965 *SB News* headlines blasted: "Unanimous Request for Shift in Grant of Powers." Here beginneth a long struggle to change the Constitution of the Student Government Association, possibly the purpose of which was, at least at the time, to limit the powers of the faculty, a faculty which had just turned down a student request for juniors to have cars.

It was announced that Dean Mary Pearl would retire at the end of the 1964-65 school year and in February the appointment of Dr. Catherine S. Sims as dean was announced. Dean Pearl would be hard to replace but in

Church services were held in the lecture room of the science building; I for one found it difficult to be spiritually inspired while gazing at the chart of the elements.



Lilly Rappaport conducts a physics lab, 1959

Mrs. Sims the College had found a dynamic and unbelievably capable individual. If all professional women were of the caliber of Anne Pannell and Catherine Sims, there would be no need for ERA!

In a small article on page six of the February 10 *SB News*, it was noted that "The Circuit Court of Amherst County has taken under advisement the question of the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams. The Board of Directors awaits the aid and direction of the Court as to the rights, duties and responsibilities" of same. More prominently displayed, and also eliciting

more reaction in the next issue of the paper was a headline, "Glamour Seeks Sweet Briar Representative in National Best Dressed Contest."

Although still mild, student unrest Sweet Briar style was continuing to slip in. "Student Protests Grow This Year," "Students Concerned With Sweet Briar Image," and from an editorial in the April 21, 1965 *News*: "Cloistered in our persistent provincialism here at Sweet Briar, it often seems more convenient to forget the 'outside world'—indeed perhaps 'ignor' (sic) is more apropos, for it is difficult to forget what we never knew."

A cornerstone ceremony for the Connie M. Guion Science Building was held on April 22. A joint committee of faculty and students began work for the revision of the Constitution (Sweet Briar's), and it was announced that "No blue jeans or wheat jeans may be worn outside unless covered by a coat. When jeans are worn at all they must be unspotted and unfrayed." One might wonder why I consider this last item

newsworthy. Anyone visiting the campus during the past few years would understand.

Physical changes continued in 1965-66 as the Guion Science Building opened for business, the chapel was expected to open in late December, the Information Office was moved to Manson and the main road through the center of the campus was closed off. Church services were held in the lecture room of the science building; I for one found it difficult to be spiritually inspired while gazing at the chart of the elements.

In November 1965, the Board voted to go to court to answer the question of whether Sweet Briar could admit students regardless of race.

Meanwhile, as a six-year-old who did not want to leave my class at the end of the year told me, "Life must go on," and so it did at Sweet Briar. Jeans, both blue and wheat, were allowed on campus uncovered. Lois Ballenger retired after ten years as manager of the "Duncan Hines Recommended" Boxwood Inn, with a total of 38 years of service to the College under her



Gary Cooper at the Sweet Briar Station?

Quoted from the Lynchburg News in the November 1955 Alumnae Magazine

"Lynchburgers will probably get a little extra thrill from the film *Court Martial of Billy Mitchell* when they see the sequence showing Mitchell (Gary Cooper) alighting from a Southern Railway train at Sweet Briar College. This it turns out was no romantic interlude—Mitchell wasn't stopping off to see a college girl, but to make a telephone call after his trial for insubordination."

HILARIOUS HIGH COMEDY . . .

. . . by the World's Wittiest Playwrights



DIARY OF A SCOUNDREL

by ALEXANDER OSTROVSKY

June 27 - June 30

A ferocious double-cross in 19th century Moscow society.

PRESENT LAUGHTER

by NOEL COWARD

June 20 - June 23

An English comedy by a master of the well-groomed drawing room.



WESTWARD HA!

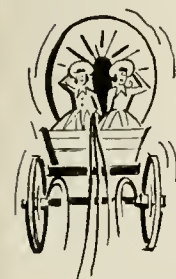
a new musical comedy

by HAL YOUNGBLOOD and CAROL HALL

premiere performance

July 4 - July 7

A parody of the American Western.



THE IMAGINARY INVALID

by MOLIERE

July 11 - July 14

A romping satire about the classic inane pretender.



MAN AND SUPERMAN

by GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

July 25 - July 28

A battle of the sexes waged by the master of the verbal sting, in a new production of this sparkling comedy.



THIEVES' CARNIVAL

by JEAN ANOUILH

July 18 - July 21

A saucy comedy of errors at a smart French spa.



Sweet Briar's Summer Theatre 1955, 1956

The Briar Patch Theatre flourished for two seasons in Fletcher Auditorium under the direction of Dr. Sidney L. Freeman, SBC's assistant professor of English. A resident company of actors and technicians drawn from alumnae, students, and others from areas as distant as NYC and Texas was supplemented by local talent from Amherst and Lynchburg, and UVA.

Briar Patch Theatre Season Program from 1956

belt; the Dana challenge was met and a decision made to use the funds for renovation of the library. Contributions to the Alumnae Fund were again the largest in the history of the College and the *SB News* sponsored a contest to see who could refrain from talking about men for a sustained period of time. The prize was dinner for two. No one entered the competition.

Good taste and good judgment still reigned supreme, the new Post Office opened in January, and faculty were accused of reading notes from cards "yellowed with age." Thank heaven I had not been there long enough for mildew to set in. In February College Council modified the apartment rule: second semester sophomores and above could enter a man's room with a third person present. Cheese Betty was the Refectory's most unpopular dish and a chain, dubbed

"Checkpoint Charlotte," was placed across the road through campus causing a great surge of hard feelings.

Former Dean Mary J. Pearl died in February, but few of us who knew her either as students or faculty will ever forget her. "Hooding" was voted down by the senior class and Guion Science Building began sinking into the earth due to a construction problem. The dedication ceremony was postponed until the College was sure that there was going to be something to dedicate.

In April 1966 it was announced that Sweet Briar was in danger of losing a \$14,000 federal HEW grant because of the admission restriction in the will. On Monday, April 25, 1966, Sweet Briar College's request was granted for a temporary restraining order effective until the case could be heard and determined by a three-judge

federal court. The order in effect restrained the Attorney General of Virginia and the Commonwealth Attorney of Amherst County from enforcing the racial restrictions in Indiana Fletcher's will. Progress, here comes Sweet Briar!

Graduation day in June 1966 dawned sunny and hot, my first graduation as a full-fledged member of the faculty. I shall never forget it. The speaker was

Bergen Evans; he spoke for an hour and a half in 95 degree heat. I feared briefly that it might be my last graduation as a member of the faculty. I survived, however, and as I look back to '56 and '66 and the years after and in between, I can only say, "Yes, Virginia, There is and shall continue to be, a college of the highest caliber, named Sweet Briar."



Byrd Stone '56 with her Nursery School students, 1969.

The Things That Matter: An Interview with Carol McMurtry Fowler '57

Excerpted from "In the Sweet
Briar Tradition," Fall 1992
issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Sweet Briar taught me that responsibility without authority is meaningless.

"Too often, people are put into jobs that entail a tremendous amount of responsibility, but they're not given the authority to do their jobs effectively. If something goes wrong, they don't feel they have the power to change the situation.

"Somehow, during my first year at Sweet Briar, I learned that responsible people do have authority; that it comes from inside and you have to accept it.

"At the same time, I learned that authority without responsibility is reckless. Authority and responsibility work hand-in-hand. One without the other is a hollow exercise.

"In the 1950s, young women were surrounded by authority. There were things you were expected to do and not ask why. Sweet Briar was an exception. Here, you could raise questions. You were encouraged to ask questions—*expected* to ask questions. It was so refreshing.

"I read Honors in American history, concentrating in 19th century Southern political history. By the time I graduated, after two years of Honors

papers for Anne Gary Pannell, I knew how to research and to write with a fair amount of speed and a great deal of accuracy. And really, I've been doing that ever since.

"After Sweet Briar, I attended the London Institute of Historical Research and the London School of Economics, but didn't get a degree. Instead, I returned home to Amarillo, Texas to gainful employment as the entertainment editor of the local paper. I lasted 15 months. I was fired for being a communist because I wrote a negative review of the movie *The Alamo*. It was the heyday of the John Birch Society in Texas, so I packed my bags and returned to England.

"After several months, I returned to Texas to go back into the newspaper business in Austin, as a reporter, news analyst, and city editor. I also got involved in various city, county, and state political campaigns as a coordinator and speech writer.

"I've done a little bit of everything. I was a criminal investigator for the District Attorney's Office—the white collar crime unit—which meant I had to go through the Austin Police Academy at the age of 43. I worked for Ann Richards when she was Texas' treasurer. I even went to law school, but found it restrictive and confining.

"Ann Richards was elected

governor of Texas in 1990. I have been her friend, bridge partner, political ally, and employee for almost 20 years.

"Before Ann was elected, I had 'retired' from working in town. My husband and I own and operate two riverboats that accommodate 50 to 500 people. I was running the boats, mixing drinks, and chopping tomatoes from April to November, and traveling extensively the rest of the time, going on several world cruises with my mother before she died in 1988.

"My mother, Mary Polk McMurtry, was instrumental in my coming to Sweet Briar. She had hoped to enroll, but her family suffered what she referred to as 'financial reversals.'

"She always told me—but I had to accumulate some gray hair before I understood her—'Carol, never take yourself seriously, but always be serious about the things that matter to you.'

"My mother gave me the gift of laughter and Sweet Briar gave me the ability to think independently. These two things are the greatest treasures anyone can hope to have—and, as the saying goes, 'Of those to whom much is given, much is demanded.'"

"So, I quit chopping tomatoes and went back into town to be part of the New Texas. Insurance reform was a major

*"My mother gave me the
gift of laughter and
Sweet Briar gave me the
ability to think inde-
pendently. These two
things are the greatest
treasures anyone can
hope to have—and, as
the saying goes, 'of those
to whom much is given,
much is demanded.'"*

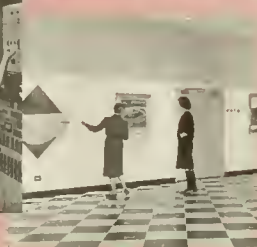
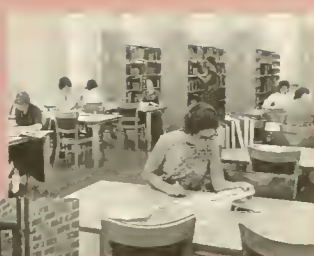


**Texas Governor Ann Richards
gets to know the students**

part of Governor Richards' platform, and she put me to work at the Texas Department of Insurance.

"There's a lot of change, excitement, and a real drive to cut through the red tape, to be accountable and responsive to the people of Texas. The governor is surrounded by responsible women—women who aren't going to leave to go line their pockets as lobbyists. When I leave Ann, I'd like to do something I have pushed back for years—join the Peace Corps."

THE NEW FINE ARTS CENTER
The Mary Reynolds Babcock Fine Arts Center was completed in time for the opening of the 1961-62 academic year.



Mme. Indira Nehru Gandhi Speaks on Indian Democracy

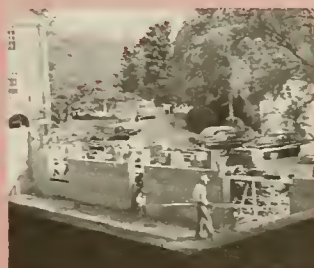
Excerpted from the April 18, 1962 issue of the Sweet Briar News

Mme. Gandhi took the podium in Babcock to address "India's Planning—Working for Democracy" on April 18, 1962. Termed "India's First Lady" as the official hostess for her father, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, she is herself an influential participant in the politics of her country.

"I have no recollection of games, children's parties or playing with other children," she said, in speaking of her family's struggle for Indian independence. "All my games were political games."



Groundbreaking Ceremonies
Meta Glass Dormitory, May 17, 1961. Inset: the new dorm



The Book Shop was under construction in 1961

Sweet Briar never leaves you. Your classmates and teachers will haunt you for the rest of your life. You will be required to have a guest room, or at least a comfortable couch on hand forever...because they will be dropping in no matter where you are in the world!

I have always returned, just to touch base with my roots and sit under a tree and gain strength, strength for what can be a fairly rough world from time to time. My excuses were varied...I had to see the new chapel, science building, riding facility or direct in the new theatre...but those were just excuses to walk quietly down to the lake or stroll in the Dell.

*Diana Muldaur '60
Fall 1984 Alumnae Magazine*

What Took So Long?

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

While some institutions resisted change, SBC spent a good part of the 1960s in court, trying to admit African-American students.

1960 1961 1962 1963

February 1

Four black students from NC A&T sit-in at a Greensboro, NC lunch counter

February 13

Nashville, TN sit-ins begin

March 1

Nine Alabama State students expelled for "sitting in"

April 15

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organized at Shaw University

October 19

Martin Luther King arrested in Atlanta sit-in

Fall Term

SBC students attempt sit-in; Administration halts bus service to Lynchburg for two weeks

November 6

Six Lynchburg businesses agree to open their lunch counters

December 14

"Patterson's Six" arrested in Lynchburg

January 11

Riots at the University of Georgia; 2 black students are suspended and then reinstated by federal court order

February 6

"Jail In" movement starts in Rock Hill, SC

Spring Term

SBC students picket in Lynchburg

May 4

Freedom Riders head south from Washington, DC

January 29

Two African-American students begin integration of Lynchburg's E.C. Glass high school

September 30

Federal troops protect the first black student to enter the University of Mississippi

We of the older

generation would do

well to remember that

we are in large measure

responsible for the

conditions and problems

causing this unrest...

August 28

The March on Washington; "I Have a Dream"

September 15

Birmingham church bombing kills 4 black teenage girls

October 8

SBC faculty submits resolution for open admissions

November 2

SBC Board decides to take legal action, seeking reinterpretation of the will

November 22

President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas

Cites Past Record Of Randolph-Macon

—Lucy Crawford, 1961

To the Editor of The News:

Sir: As a resident of Amherst County for over thirty-five years, I have been a keen and appreciative observer of the many outstanding contributions which Randolph-Macon Woman's College has made to the cultural life of Lynchburg. For the most part those contributions have resulted from the joint efforts of the college administration, the faculty, and the students—with the generous support of the Board of Trustees. In some cases, notably the Greek plays, these activities have

brought national and international renown not only to the college, but also to the City of Lynchburg.

Recently two Randolph-Macon students have behaved in such a way as to offend many citizens of Lynchburg. This is not surprising in view of the general unrest among students throughout the world. We of the older generation would do well to remember that we are in large measure responsible for the conditions and problems causing this unrest—at least, we have not been able to prevent

the disturbing conditions, nor have we found satisfactory solutions for those problems. May I suggest that while considering the action of these two students, we take care not to forget the hundreds of Randolph-Macon students who have honored Lynchburg by their residence here, and have honored themselves and their college by their high ideals of scholarship and citizenship.

May I also take this occasion to pay tribute to the loyalty of the Randolph-Macon administra-

tion and faculty to the Liberty, which is the essence of sound scholarship and citizenship. In so far as able to instill that spirit, students they have seen State well as educators inspiring leaders. Whatever we may pass on the actions of the two students referred to, we must admit they have behaved with and restraint, and have borne the age of their conscientious characteristics



NAACP MEETS, HEARS LUNCH COUNTER PROPOSALS
Overflow crowd at Court Street Baptist church joins in hymn Sunday during mass meeting of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in which proposals to boycott and picket segregated lunch counter facilities were heard.

photos and text from the Lynchburg News, March 21, 1960

1964

June 22

Three civil rights workers disappear in Mississippi

July 2

President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964

August 17

SBC files bill of complaint in Amherst Circuit Court

September 5

Attorney General of Virginia urges court to uphold SBC charter

October 14

King awarded Nobel Peace Prize

December 2

Judge Quesenbery hears arguments in SBC case

1965

February 21

Malcolm X assassinated in New York

March 21

March from Selma to Montgomery

June 3

Judge Quesenbery rules against SBC

June 11

SBC signs to comply with Civil Rights Act of 1964

July 9

Amherst Commonwealth's Attorney requests dismissal of "frivolous" SBC case

August 6

"Burn, Baby, Burn" riots in Watts district of Los Angeles

December 28

Judge Quesenbery hears arguments and testimony on McClenny's motion to dismiss the SBC case

1966

April 6

Judge Quesenbery denies motion for dismissal

April 25

SBC obtains temporary restraining order

July 6

Three-judge U.S. District Court hears SBC case

July 12

Riots break out in Chicago, six other cities follow

July 16

"Black Power" slogan is born in Greenwood, MS

August 31

SBC announces admission of Marshalyne Yeargin

September 6

Riots break out in Atlanta

December 2

Three-judge U.S. District Court abstains from making SBC decision

1967

January 4

SBC appeals to U.S. Supreme Court

May 29

U.S. Supreme Court reverses U.S. District Court judgment

July 17

Three-judge U.S. District Court favors SBC

July 23

Riots break out in Detroit; 5,000 left homeless

August 30

Thurgood Marshall becomes first black U.S. Supreme Court justice

ship in a democratic com-
conclusion, it seems clear
past record of Randolph-
Woman's College—its ad-
vators, faculty, and students
deserve our confidence in their
honesty, justice and courage. Let
us do what we can to assure
our faith in their integrity,
our trust in their ability to
meet the present situation in a
manner that is consistent with their
tradition as educators and free
of good will.
Very sincerely yours,
LUCY S. CRAWFORD
Briar, Va.



NCCJ YOUTH PANEL
Polly Wirtzman '63 is second from left with students from Virginia Theological Seminary, Lynchburg College, and R-MWC.

Lynch. News May 1, 1960
**Sweet Briar Students
 Oppose Discrimination**

To the Editor of the News:

Sir: As college students, we wish to support the efforts of southern Negroes who are striving to eliminate racial discrimination at lunch counters. We believe that stores which sell a variety of goods and provide a public food service are morally obligated to serve all customers on an equal basis. The issue which the current demonstrations raise is simply that of justice and fair play for all citizens in a free society.

KEATING GRIFFIN
 BROWNIE LEE
 ELIZABETH V. LUND
 FRAN OLIVER
 GRACE SUTTLE
 SUSAN APPLGATE
 ANITA PERRIN
 MARIA GARNETT
 RUSTY McHUGP
 ANN GREGG
 SUSAN CONE
 CAROLYN L. GOUGH
 ANDREA C. DENSON
 GALE YOUNG
 DEBBIE LANE
 KADRI NIDER
 MARGARET STOREY
 STEPHANIE BARUTIO
 FRANCISCA BRACKENRIDGE
 WINIFRED STOREY
 JAN ZATMAN
 BARBARA ROCKEFELLER
 ELEANOR CROSBY
 FRAN EARLY
 EMILY FITZHUGH
 WILLIA F. FALES
 LESLIE HEYE
 LYDIA TAYLOR
 LAURA CONNERAT
 JANE ARENSBURG
 ANGELA GIBBS
 CHARITY PAUL
 NORRIS SMITH
 LINDA CANADAY
 JANE HALDEMAN
 ADEL SHINBERGER
 BARBARA BEAM
 MARY R. STURR
 PATRICIA RUSSELL
 VIRGINIA BORAH
 ILA LANE
 MARY LAYNE SHINE
 ANN CRONELL
 ASHBY SCHELER
 MILDRED NEWMAN
 TEDDY HILL

Sweet Briar

Standing Up

Student protesters
surprised SBC administrators

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

On February 1, 1960, four nicely dressed African-American students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro sat down at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter and politely placed an order. Though they were refused service due to the store's "no colored" policy, they remained in their seats until closing. The following day, the same students returned to the lunch counter with 16 others. That's how "sit-ins" started. The movement quickly caught on, with the help of television coverage, prompting Virginia lawmakers to pass stricter anti-trespass laws—just in case.



Downtown Lynchburg, 1963



—Robin Gross Photo

DISCUSS MINORITY ISSUES—Discussing problems and challenges of members of racial or religious minorities in panel discussion of area college students at a meeting of Lynchburg Council on Human Relations Tuesday night were, left to right, Dr. Thomas Gilpatrick, moderator; Mark McCorvey, Virginia Seminary and College; Terrell Brumbaugh, Lynchburg College; Lind Groseclose, Randolph-Macon Woman's College; Rev. Daniel Bowers, executive Council, and Andrea Denson, Sweet Briar College.

...four or five students attempted to sit-in at a drug store in Lynchburg in the fall of 1960. The pharmacist called the College and Dean Pearl promptly dispatched a taxi to fetch the protesters. To prevent those students from staging a repeat performance, and as a warning to others, the administration cut off bus service between Lynchburg and the College for two weeks.

For students willing to participate in the Civil Rights movement, sit-ins, "sit-and-runs," and picket lines provided a direct and daring way to express their beliefs. By the fall of 1960, the novel, nonviolent tactic had spread to Lynchburg. The involvement of a handful of Sweet Briar students caught the administration by surprise. Parents were stunned. Even retired government professor Tom Gilpatrick admits, "The faculty was out of the loop. The students did it all on their own."

Forty years after the fact, it is difficult to reconstruct exactly what happened during the 1960-

1961 academic year. Sara Lycett '61 remembers that four or five students attempted to sit-in at a drug store in Lynchburg in the fall of 1960. The pharmacist called the College and Dean Pearl promptly dispatched a taxi to fetch the protesters. To prevent those students from staging a repeat performance, and as a warning to others, the administration cut off bus service between Lynchburg and the College for two weeks.

Lynne Nalley Coates '61 does not recall exactly what she did that semester to make her father so furious. But she does remember why she became

involved.

In Lynne's psychology class, Professor Phyllis Stevens had asked the question: Do you believe Negroes are born inferior—intellectually and in other ways—to whites? Lynne had been brought up believing that was the case. "Then," she says, "as we started to research and discuss the issue, I realized I was dead wrong. It hit me like a ton of bricks. All the injustices and inequities—everything we had done—came crashing through. I thought, 'I've got to do something about this.' When the opportunity presented itself, I went."

Lunch Counters' Action Wins Praise

11.20.60

To the Editor of The News:

Sir: We wish to express our support to Guggenheimer's, Kresge's, Woolworth's, and Peter's News Stand for the opening of their lunch counter facilities to all customers. We feel that this is a very significant step toward the realization of equality for all the citizens of the city.

William S. Spencer, Nikki Griess, Rusty McHugh, Albert Rose, Alice Hilewick, Carol Hancock, Celia Isabel Mendoza, James Hunter, Rebecca Owen, Lucille Ford, Molly Campbell, Barbara Thomas, Floyd Hamlett, Ann Gregg, Terrill Brumback, John W. Williams, Sally Slate, Jane Meridith, Simone Reagor, Duval Merchant, Lynne Schradin, Barbara Ann Chilton, David Sannecky, Kathleen Scott, Nancy McDowell, Morton Hill, Susan Duiguid, Myra Parrish, Stevie Fountain, Mary Jane Minor, Doris Scott, Leslie Buchman, Frederick W. Hayes, Lois Eubanks, Joy Mitchell, Renee Regan, Betsy Dawson, Charles Rose Jr., Peg Pulis, Elizabeth Wood, Berry Dempsey, Penny Powell, Mandeline Thompson, Laura Thomas, Seabreeze Seaman, Mary Edith Bentley, Nancy Ward, Jerry Fleshman, Carolyn Gabel, Lela Kucwicz, Nancy Wood, Roma Colmore Jr., Judy Evans, Sheila Haskell, Christie McCoy, Fan Rhea Lucy, Amy Sawers, Anne Parker, William T. Haskins Jr., Angela Gibbs, Mary Hicks, Rose Hardin, Marie Thompson, Lyne Nalley, Martha Anne Sewell, Linda Blackwood, Lawrence E. Carter, Jane Yardley, Joanne Burgess, Meta Bond, Betty Dawson, Barbara Royal, Merry Pat Sloan, Betty Allen, Ashley Schuler, William A. Dyson, Hazel Walling, Nancy Bourne, Suzanne Clark, Anne Leavell, Roberta Porcello, Anna Best Stuart, Kenny Green, Courtney West, Julia Forte, Emanuel Reasor III, Ann Hammond, E. D. Hensley, Betty Wells, Lloyd Jones, C. A. Crooker, Ann Vible, Virginia Shuarer, George Flood, Marjorie Powers.

Rachel "Rusty" McHugh Lilly '63 was concerned about Civil Rights during her high school years. When she arrived at Sweet Briar, she volunteered to teach at a local, all-black elementary school. What she saw there motivated her to act.

"It was a one-room schoolhouse with a wood stove that housed grades one through six. There was one teacher; there were hardly any books. The white schools, on the other hand, had wonderful facilities. This was the situation several years after *Brown vs. The Board of Education*."

Rusty became involved with community groups interested in integrating the Lynchburg-area public schools, including E.C. Glass High School. She also helped to collect and deliver books to African-American children in nearby Prince Edward County. In 1959, Prince Edward County defied integration by shutting down its public school system. Whites, with the help of county and state grants, attended private schools. Blacks had to make do, sending their children to poorly-funded "training centers" manned by volunteers or sending them to live with relatives in other districts. (The public schools reopened in 1964.)

Rusty hopped on the bus to Lynchburg as often as she could, attending meetings at campuses and churches, and showing up at targeted sites to participate in

demonstrations. One tactic called a sit-and-run allowed student protesters to make their point without triggering a trespass violation.

"A sit-and-run," explains Rusty, "entailed going to a lunch counter with black friends, ordering, being asked to leave, and leaving. Usually, we decided in advance as a group where and when we were going to stage a demonstration."

On Wednesday, December 14, 1960, six students—two blacks and four whites—refused to leave the lunch counter at Patterson's Drug Store on Main Street in Lynchburg. The owner called the police. Two Virginia Theological Seminary students, two students from Lynchburg College, and two young women from Randolph-Macon Woman's College were arrested and jailed. Speaking for the "Patterson's Six", Terrill Brumback of Lynchburg College insisted that the protesters made the decision to sit-in without consulting a larger group of about 100 students—a group with no formal name—who had met, he said, "perhaps 20 times to discuss the racial question."

At Sweet Briar, the day of the sit-in, December 14, was a "no cut" day. "Students were not allowed to cut classes the day before a vacation," explains Rusty. "I was already in trouble, finding notes on my door directing me to see Dean Pearl or see

Dean Jester every time I returned from town. Somehow they knew I wasn't going to Lynchburg to shop."

Fran Oliver Palmer '62 remembers attending a few four-college student meetings in a little room in downtown Lynchburg, possibly at the YWCA. One Saturday, she got on a bus and joined a picket line outside a drug store on Main Street—she thinks it was in the spring of 1961. It was an intimidating scene. The store owner had allegedly hired workers to act as anti-protesters during their lunch break.

"The College sent a letter home to parents," remembers Fran, "saying that men with hammers and chisels in their pockets had threatened the students. This made it sound much more dangerous than it really was. The men were just workmen wearing tool belts standing on the street in broad daylight with lots of other people around. It was uncomfortable—the men were shouting things—but I never felt that I was in any real danger. In fact, my father wrote a letter back to President Pannell, letting her know that he trusted my judgment." Fran was lucky. Other parents were not as supportive.

Fran's roommate, Laura Connerat Lawton '62, was on the same picket line, wearing the skirt, hose, and heels the College

required students to don on trips into town. She was carrying a sign that read "The Presence Of Segregation Is The Absence of Democracy." The crowd was rowdier than she had expected. Some men spit. One called out, asking her if she was going to marry a Nigger.

While she was picketing, Laura saw the brother of a classmate pass through the crowd. He spotted Laura too, but moved on without speaking to her. That evening, he called her for a date. "I was a little suspicious," says Laura, "but I went anyway."

The young man drove Laura to his parent's home where six or eight adults were waiting to question her. "I sat in the living room and answered their questions," remembers Laura. "They wanted to know if I realized that I was being duped by communists, that it was a plot. I told them I didn't think so, that integration was important to me and I thought I was doing the right thing. They asked about my family and background. I told them everything about me. I explained that I was a physics major from Savannah. Still, they had a hard time believing that I hadn't been paid to protest."

The real culprits, the people who had inspired Laura to join the picket lines were nationally-renowned ministers who, in the days before the chapel was built and a chaplain in place, were invited to speak to the Sweet

Briar community on Sundays. Laura was in the choir and heard every one, including the Yale University chaplain, Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Visitors like Coffin were involved in the Civil Rights movement and Laura listened intently to their sermons. "They were," she says, "out in the world and in touch with the social struggles of the times."

Looking back, Laura has no regrets regarding her activities. "It made a lot of people mad at me, which nobody likes or wants," she says. "But it was then that I realized just how important it is to stand up—and to do so knowing that your true friends will always be there. If I had not done it that very first time, my life might have been completely different. I might never have discovered that I had it in me."

I sat in the living room and answered their questions. They wanted to know if I realized that I was being duped by communists, that it was a plot. I told them I didn't think so, that integration was important to me and I thought I was doing the right thing.

Thank You Mr. Newman

*Reinterpreting the Will of
Indiana Fletcher Williams*

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

In April 1968, J. Wilson Newman decided it was time to step down and "let the healing process begin." He had accomplished what he had set out to do. The College—with a little help from the U.S. Supreme Court—had legally and permanently lifted its racial ban. Sweet Briar's first African-American student was about to graduate Phi Beta Kappa with a major in biology. Those who felt compelled to withdraw their support had done so years before. The remaining community was stronger than ever. The campus was quiet. It was a good time for Newman to retire.



WATCH HOODING — Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Newman of Short Hills, N. J., look on as their daughter, Clare, a senior at Sweet Briar College, is honored by her father, Bee, who will be a senior next year. Newman, board chairman and chief executive officer of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., was speaker at the Sweet Briar commencement today. President Anne Gary Pannell announced that Newman has been elected to a six-year term on the Board of Overseers. See other Sweet Briar picture on page 20. (Wyatt Mayo Photo).

**Dun & Bradstreet Board Chairman
to Sweet Briar Graduates**

**95 Seniors
Graduate
From SBC**

Sweet Briar College's third commencement exercises this morning saw 95 candidates receive their degrees.

For six years, from 1963 to 1968, Newman served as chairman of the Board of Directors and the Board of Overseers. His tenure spanned “the case,” that is, the legal action taken by the College to reinterpret the will of its founder, Indiana Fletcher Williams.

Indiana signed her will in New York on April 22, 1899. According to Sweet Briar historian Ann Marshall Whitley ‘47, Indiana did “everything possible to make her will attack-proof.” She knew her brother Lucian’s illegitimate children would fight to grab her fortune. She also anticipated that the County of Amherst would vigorously protest exempting thousands of acres from taxation.

Two distinguished estate lawyers crafted the document. Indiana’s primary legal advisor in New York, Mr. Eugene Smith, sent a draft to Mr. Robert Stiles in Richmond. Stiles made some changes, making certain that the will conformed to Virginia state codes.

No one knows where or when the phrase “for the education of white girls and young women” was written into the will. And we can only guess what Miss Indie thought of it—if she thought of it at all. But one thing is certain: to be valid in Virginia, her educational charitable trust had to include a racially restrictive clause.

Integration was not an option. “After the Civil War,” explains Newman, “all states were required to bring their statutes in conformance with the Fourteenth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, guaranteeing every citizen equal protection under the law. In the process, Virginia passed a law stating that educational trusts for non-whites were legal, as educational trusts for whites had been.

“As a result,” continues Newman, “the lawyer drawing up Mrs. Williams’ will creating the trust for Sweet Briar had a clear choice of specifying a trust for whites or a trust for non-whites. At the time, it was not possible to establish an educational trust for both.” The lawyer conformed with the Virginia statute to insulate the will from attack, “making sure that the opposition would not succeed in blocking Mrs. Williams’ plans for a school in memory of her daughter Daisy.”

This new insight into the wording of the will—understanding that the phrase “white girls and young women” satisfied state laws in effect in 1899 and still in force in the 1960s—emerged as Sweet Briar’s attorneys prepared to seek a judicial interpretation of the founder’s will.

In her wisdom, and in what were indisputably her own words, Miss Indie had instructed Sweet Briar’s trustees to use

Indiana did “everything possible to make her will attack-proof.” She knew her brother Lucian’s illegitimate children would fight to grab her fortune. She also anticipated that the County of Amherst would vigorously protest exempting thousands of acres from taxation.

—Ann Whitley

...the lawyer drawing up Mrs. Williams’ will creating the trust for Sweet Briar had a clear choice of specifying a trust for whites or a trust for non-whites. At the time, it was not possible to establish an educational trust for both.

—J. Wilson Newman

their best judgment in executing her wishes. Her will plainly states that “The general scope and object of the school shall be to impart to its students such education and sound learning, and such physical, moral and religious training as shall, in the judgment of the directors, best fit them to be useful members of society.” By 1963, segregation was impeding the College’s ability to meet Indiana’s primary objectives. The board agreed to take legal action.

Newman contacted Frank G. Davidson, Jr., a Lynchburg tax and estate attorney with a sterling statewide reputation. The

two met to discuss the matter over lunch. “When I approached Frank on the grounds that he undertake the litigation,” recalls Newman, “he acted like there was a foul odor in the room. He said, ‘I’ll look into it, Wilson. But I won’t charge Sweet Briar a penny.’ “We subsequently involved a constitutional consultant, Thomas S. Currier, who discovered why the will was drawn for white girls only. When the College later received his bill for \$25,000, I authorized payment and asked the treasurer, Peter Daniel, to send a check for the same amount to Frank Davidson

Frank G. Davidson, Jr. *SBC's Winning Legal Counsel Loved the Challenge*



After the successful conclusion of the Sweet Briar case, the Newman and Davidson families continued their friendship. In this 1983 photo, Frank Davidson, Clara Newman, Cissy Davidson, and Wilson Newman reunite for a Baltic cruise. (Frank Davidson died in 1991.)

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Lynchburg attorney Frank G. Davidson, Jr. spent five years on the Sweet Briar case and refused to accept a penny in return. His wife, Catherine "Cissy" Graves Davidson, explains that it was a contribution to the College—and also illustrative of the way Davidson conducted business.

"If Frank liked the people and the principle," says Cissy, "he had a hard time charging. He loved what he was doing so much."

Sweet Briar Board Chairman J. Wilson Newman could have searched the world and not found a better man for the job. The two men developed an instant rapport. Davidson entered the University of Virginia at the age of 15 and went straight through U. VA Law School, receiving his J.D. in 1930. Newman was a lawyer, too, and both of his grandfathers were U. VA graduates. In their youth, at the beginning of the Great Depression, both men headed to New York City, where Newman remained and Davidson quickly discovered his preference for small-town life. Both had married exceptionally bright and talented women who were born and raised in Mississippi and Tennessee. The two couples had children the same age.

Davidson was familiar with the College. Mr. S.V. Kemp, a retired senior member of his firm, had handled SBC business for years.

Davidson was also well prepared for the personal and social consequences of the case. Cissy, a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, was serving on the R-MWC board and working with the Lynchburg school

board during the struggle over Civil Rights at those institutions. Describing the letters and phone calls she received back then, Cissy recalls that "Nobody was really ugly, but they were the next thing to it. There was a policy of 'massive resistance' in Virginia and we had to work hard to prevent anything critical from happening."

Cissy notes that Frank had already successfully handled the reinterpretation of a will based on changing conditions and customs when Newman approached him on the Sweet Briar case in 1963. But that experience amounted to a mere starting point in the effort to lift the College's racial ban.

"Anne Pannell had great courage and was very far-sighted," says Cissy. "Both Frank and Wilson admired her. She was enthusiastic, intelligent and organized, and the three of them worked well together. They shared a common purpose, a vision of what needed to be done. Though I don't think they anticipated it would take so long."

On December 28, 1965, Cissy sat in a packed, tense Amherst County courtroom, where eight SBC officials were assembled to refute Commonwealth's Attorney McClenny's allegations that the case was "frivolous" and that the College had "not come to court with clean hands or good faith."

Before the hearing, Cissy remembers that "Frank told Mrs. Pannell to talk as fast as she could to get as much on the record as possible, which she did. In fact, when she finished talking, Judge Quesenbury remarked, 'My, that was a long answer, wasn't it?'" Cissy also laughs and confides that

"Frank advised Wilson not to say anything that would irritate the judge!"

The following day, a *Lynchburg News* account of the proceedings indicated that all of Sweet Briar's representatives performed well on the stand. The reporter described Pannell as a "dynamic executive" seeking to "safeguard the rights" of her students. Under McClenny's questioning, Newman conceded that SBC "could continue on a segregated basis, but it would not be regarded as one of the leading colleges for women in the United States." Both William Pettyjohn, vice chairman of the Board of Directors, and Gorham B. Walker, member of the Board of Overseers, asserted that a great deal of "soul searching" preceded their decisions and that no action was taken on "the spur of the moment."

In one exchange, Judge Quesenbury asked the director of admissions what it cost to attend the College. After learning that the total fee came to \$2,950.00, the judge sighed, "Daughters are getting to be a luxury." This information, however, did not soften McClenny's stance that the College did not need federal funds and the board was just trying to "keep up with the Joneses."

Cissy explains that, for men like her husband and Wilson Newman, desegregation was a legal issue. While reformers like President Pannell expressed Sweet Briar's plight in broad terms, Davidson and Newman honed in on the legal implications and challenges. The two men felt good about what they were doing. But they also knew it was going to be difficult. And they let Anne Pannell know what to expect.

In 1968, Sweet Briar commissioned a portrait of Frank G. Davidson, Jr., which hangs over the couch in Cissy's den. Glancing over at it, she remembers one more odd fact about the suit. "Judge Quesenbury never officially closed the case. Even after it went to the higher courts where they ruled against him, he simply was not going to sign off. He went to his grave without doing it. Frank and Wilson used to bring it up once in a while, not with any resentment, just amusement."

as a partial payment. True to his word, Frank returned the check."

From their first lunch forward, Frank Davidson's disarming humor and enduring friendship would help Newman withstand the ruin of other relationships, including the loss of one of his closest childhood friends. As the case dragged on, the College lost several board members: some quietly walked away, while others left the board publicly expressing their fear and indignation.

In her 1976 *Alumnae Magazine* memoir of the period, the late Professor Byrd Stone '56 described the case as "a harrowing battle for the Board and for President Pannell, which included voluminous and often threatening mail to various board members and references in Amherst County to Mrs. Pannell as 'that disgraceful northern lady.'" It did not seem to matter that President Pannell was a native of North Carolina or that she was the widow of Dr. Henry Clifton Pannell, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education. Her desire for an open admissions policy made her an outsider.

Retired Vice President and Treasurer Peter V. Daniel remembers the 1963-1967 period as being "horrendous, just horrendous."

"Sweet Briar quite properly set out to make changes to com-

...threatening mail to various board members and references in Amherst County to Mrs. Pannell as 'that disgraceful northern lady.' It did not seem to matter that President Pannell was a native of North Carolina...

ply with the Civil Rights Act," says Daniel. "But the animosity that was created in response was hard to take."

"President Pannell and I were very involved in local civic organizations. Everywhere we went, we were pigeonholed by people—some of whom were my friends—telling us we had no business doing what we were doing. An editorial in the Lynchburg paper headlined *A Matter of Honor* called for the resignation of all the College's senior officers and board of trustees. And even after the case was settled, the paper printed another editorial titled *Still A Matter of Honor*."

Newman admired President Anne Gary Pannell. "She was," he says, "much more of a reformer than I was. In view of the change in the law, I saw no way out. The U. S. Supreme Court agreed with me."

Retired Professor Thomas V. Gilpatrick recalls sitting in the president's office, listening to Newman eloquently arguing in favor of desegregation. "Four members of the faculty—myself,

McClenny's brief opposed the suit, asking the question: "If this will is to be mutilated by deleting the word 'white' why not take out the word female and make it a coeducational institution?"

Dick Rowland, and two others—listened and backed Newman up," says Gilpatrick. "It must have been 1963, about the same time the faculty signed a nearly-unanimous resolution calling for an open admissions policy. Only one professor refused to sign it.

"Other colleges were more progressive," continues Gilpatrick. "But, then again, other colleges didn't have to overcome the obstacles we did."

Newman was used to overcoming obstacles. Shortly after receiving a B.S. degree from his hometown college, Clemson, in 1931, he headed to New York City. There, in the early years of the Great Depression, he managed to secure a position as a credit reporter for R. G. Dun & Company—a firm that would soon merge with the Bradstreet Company. He also began working toward a law degree in night classes at New York University, an effort that would take him six long years to complete.

When he married Clara Cox

Connelly Collier of Mississippi in 1934, his prospects were uncertain at best. As the depression worsened, he and his coworkers were forced to take a pay cut. His wife, who had attended the Nashville Conservatory of Music and Ward Belmont School, was making more money as a manager of the drapery department at Macy's. The situation strengthened Newman's stubborn streak. He resolved he was not going to be "an also-ran in the family partnership."

Newman rose rapidly through the ranks of the credit information business. By 1952, at the age of 43, he was president and CEO of Dun & Bradstreet. Eight years later, he was further elevated to chairman and CEO. The father of two girls and two boys in that order, he proudly sent Ginger Newman Blanchard '60 and Bee Newman Thayer '61 to Sweet Briar College.

The Newman family had strong ties to Amherst County.

Newman's mother, Grace Strode, was born at Kenmore, a property not far from the Sweet Briar campus. She grew up in South Carolina, where her father served as the first president of Clemson College (now Clemson University). Grace attended Converse College but withdrew after six months to free up financial resources for her brother's education. That brother, Aubrey E. Strode, became a well-known Lynchburg-area legislator and judge.

Wilson and Clara Newman visited Kenmore frequently when their children were growing up and purchased it from the Strode side of the family in 1959. By then, both daughters, Ginger and Bee, were enrolled at Sweet Briar. Wilson joined the President's Parents Council in 1957.

Newman was not an outsider. But he did have a unique perspective. Dun & Bradstreet, he explains, "prided itself on objectivity." The practice of law also required it.

WILL'S CLARITY UPHELD

Lynchburg News
June 5, 1965

Sweet Briar Can't Mix, Says Quesenberry

By TED THOMPSON
News County Editor

AMHERST—Sweet Briar College's legal action to open its doors to Negro students is denied by Judge C. G. Quesenberry in an opinion filed Friday in Amherst County Circuit Court which sustains a demurrer to the suit.

The fashionable and expensive Amherst County girls' school brought suit last August to amend the will of the founder, Mrs. Indiana Fletcher Williams, so as to admit Negroes by re-

Frank G. Davidson Jr. of Lynchburg, attorney for the college, said he had not yet read the judge's decision and that any further steps the college might take—if any—would be determined later.

Judge Quesenberry deals with the demurrer in his opinion in three points: (1) That no color is pleaded by the college.

(2) That the will of Mrs. Williams "is not therefore needs no amendment."

Officials of the college, seeking authority to accept "all qualified applicants for admission, regardless of race, creed or color" long-

Lynchburg News July 4, 1965
SBC Board Member Resigns Over 'Rights' Compliance

THE PRESENT court proceeding was brought as a result of a resolution passed by the Board of Directors.

and religious training as shall, in the opinion of the directors, be of useful mem-

as a perpetual her deceased Williams."

points out that implemented to create this providing that estate be used and carry on for the girls and

one of Sweet suit was filed on Aug. 12

because the college was set up as a charitable trust. McClenny was named as legal officer of the county in which Sweet Briar is situated, on 3,000 acres of rolling countryside 12 miles north of Lynchburg, with a student body of some 700.

BUTTON filed an answer Sept. 8, 1964, on behalf of the state in which he contended the founder's will "is enclusive and binding" in that it directs establishment of a school for the education of "white girls and young women."

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Quesenbury attributed the Sweet Briar board's effort to the "hysteria of the times," his euphemism for the Civil Rights movement. He also warned that religious training—another of Mrs. Williams' primary purposes—would be the next to go.

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Quesenbury told us he wasn't going to cite us for contempt of court for signing in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But he thought it wasn't a bad idea and said he would keep the case under advisement. It was a fatal mistake because this is what Frank Davidson seized on to get the case before the United States Supreme Court. Quesenbury, by threatening the denial of a constitutional right, created a constitutional issue.

—J. Wilson Newman

saying "Sweet Briar can become an educational center for animals...if the will of the founder can be changed to admit Negroes."

Five months later, on June 3, 1965, Judge Quesenbury rendered his opinion. He said there was no controversy. The will was not ambiguous and needed no further interpretation. The application of *cy pres* (executing the founder's intentions as nearly as possible when it would be impossible or illegal to do so literally) would not be proper. After all, the College had been operating successfully for 60 years. *Cy pres* would "destroy the entire purpose of the will."

Quesenbury attributed the Sweet Briar board's effort to the "hysteria of the times," his euphemism for the Civil Rights movement. He also warned that religious training—another of Mrs. Williams' primary purposes—would be the next to go. Taking a swipe at the U. S. Supreme Court, he said that an interpretation which would bring Sweet Briar College "under the Fourteenth Amendment [covering equal rights] would certainly place it in a position where religious training would be contrary to the Constitution, as currently misinterpreted by the Court in Washington."

Less than two weeks after receiving Quesenbury's decision, the board held a special meeting in which the majority

elected to continue to push on through the courts. In addition, in an effort to maintain federal aid including student loans, J. Wilson Newman and President Pannell filed the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Form 441, complying with relevant sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Though all documents relating to the litigation were attached to the form, evidence of the College's *attempt* to comply was not good enough. SBC was cut off from all federal assistance.

At this point, the first board member resigned in protest after 24 years on the board, feeling that the board's action violated the founder's trust and flouted the court's decision. This member did not believe that the College needed federal aid to survive, and was deeply concerned that religious teaching could be outlawed at the same time the new Sweet Briar Chapel was about to be completed: "Will textbooks then be required to be rewritten in order to indoctrinate students with particular social, economic, or political philosophies?"

A second member, who left the board prior to the civil rights compliance debate, made it known that he too opposed the move. A third, who had been out of town when the meeting took place, told reporters, "I may take some action."

Exactly what action was

taken against the board and administration is not clear. And Newman, 35 years later at the age of 91, has no desire to malign anyone now. Perhaps it is enough to say that by September 1965, another man who had worked hard for many years on the College's behalf, was no longer on the board. (Newman remembers that the College lost five board members to the hostilities over integration.)

Meanwhile, Commonwealth's Attorney McClenney was heading back to state circuit court. On July 9, 1965, he requested an immediate dismissal of the Sweet Briar suit on grounds that the College "did not come into court with clean hands or good faith."

Arguments on McClenney's motion for dismissal were heard six months later on December 28, 1965, with eight SBC officials testifying on the College's behalf. This time, the College waited three months for Judge Quesenbury's decision. On April 6, 1966, he wrote that he saw no good purpose in granting McClenney's request, although it was "obvious that no one was seriously seeking an interpretation of the plain language of the will."

Since Sweet Briar's admissions policy had not changed, Quesenbury did not hold the directors in contempt. He did take time, however, to issue an

We had students who came from Africa—places like Nigeria—via Great Britain. They had the most exquisite accents. And no one questioned the fact that they were at Sweet Briar. It was clear that the racial ban applied only to people of color from the United States. Something was profoundly the matter with a college that would not accept African Americans.

—Pryor Hale '65

admonition on the subject of federal assistance. Mrs. Williams, he said, "did not want the monument to her daughter to be supported by going to the capitol in Washington with cup in hand to support the institution." The whole idea, he thought, "would have been repugnant to her." The board and administration were substituting "money for integrity."

"Quesenbury," explains Newman, "told us he wasn't going to cite us for contempt of court for signing in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But he thought it wasn't a bad idea and said he would keep the case under advisement. It was a fatal mistake because this is what Frank Davidson seized on to get the case before the United States Supreme Court. Quesenbury, by threatening the denial of a constitutional right, created a constitutional issue."

The case did not go directly from Amherst to Washington, D.C. After Quesenbury's ruling, on April 25, 1966, the College filed its complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia. On the same day, Judge Thomas J. Michie issued a temporary restraining order preventing Button and McClenney from enforcing the racial restriction in the will.

Having "cast his cards with the law," Newman was determined to see the process through. In consultation with the board and President Pannell, he decided it was time to admit a qualified African-American student. Though the details are sketchy, his request seems to have prompted a change in admissions personnel.

Sweet Briar had never admitted an African-American and

none had ever applied. But the College had been accepting non-white students every year since 1940, primarily Asian Indians and Orientals. Such glaring inconsistencies were not lost on young women like Pryor Hale '65. "We had students who came from Africa—places like Nigeria—via Great Britain," she remembers. "They had the most exquisite accents. And no one questioned the fact that they were at Sweet Briar. It was clear that the racial ban applied only to people of color from the United States. Something was profoundly the matter with a college that would not accept African Americans."

On July 6, 1966, a special three-judge United States Court sitting in nearby Charlottesville, heard arguments for and against making SBC's temporary restraining order permanent. Several weeks later, at the end of the summer, the College announced the acceptance of its first Negro student.

Marshalyn "Penny" Yeargin '68, a transfer student from Greenville, South Carolina, arrived on campus in September 1966. Her presence, reported the Washington Post, made Sweet Briar "the last girl's college in the South to lower its racial barriers." It was optimistic of the Post to declare a last-place finish while the suit was still undecided in federal court.

Lynchburg News - Aug. 31, 1966

SBC Admits First Negro

By BETTY HERLEY
News Staff Writer

The first Negro student to be admitted to Sweet Briar College has been accepted for enrollment in the junior class for the 1966-67 academic year.

She is Marshalyn Yeargin, Greenville, S. C., who plans major in biological science, and has completed two years at Bennett College in Greensboro, N. C.

A statement issued by Sweet Briar College Tuesday night said: "This action..."

Fashionable College To Admit Negro Girl

COLUMBUS (Missouri) Dispatch, 10 Sept. 2, 1966

SWEET BRIAR, Va. (UPI) — Fashionable Sweet Briar College, threatened with a loss of federal funds, announced it would admit its first Negro student in September despite a "whites only" clause in the will of the school's founder.

The school's spokesman said the Negro student, Marshalyn Yeargin, was accepted for admission to the school's board of directors voted May 23 to break the white-only clause of the will.

The action was taken by the board of directors, which also voted to open admission policy, under protection of a Federal temporary restraining order pending final determination of legal action now in the federal court.

founder, Mrs. Indiana Fletcher Williams.

Mrs. Williams provided in her will that Sweet Briar College be a "white women's college."

Judge panel was headed by Chief Justice Warren, U. S. Supreme Court. It is the first time a Negro student has been admitted to a college in the South since Reconstruction.

Sweet Briar College is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The school's board of directors voted May 23 to break the white-only clause of the will.

The action was taken by the board of directors, which also voted to open admission policy, under protection of a Federal temporary restraining order pending final determination of legal action now in the federal court.

To this day, Newman
bristles every time he
hears the words "break the
will." Indiana Fletcher
Williams' legacy, after
all, is still very much
intact. He prefers to use
the more accurate term
"reinterpret the will."

Near the end of Marshalyn's first semester, on December 2, 1966, the special three-judge federal court designated to try the case in Charlottesville decided to abstain. In a two-to-one decision written by Circuit Judge Albert V. Bryan of Richmond, Sweet Briar was told to exhaust the remedies available through the state courts of Virginia. District Judge Thomas J. Michie of Charlottesville concurred with Judge Bryan. District Judge John D. Butzner of Richmond dissented.

In his dissent, Judge Butzner argued that the College was entitled to relief on all grounds. His opinion stated that "threat of state control over admission policies" in violation of federal law "was real and imminent." The federal questions raised in the litigation were independent and could be "decided without resolution of state issues."

After the holidays, on January 4, 1967, Sweet Briar filed a notice of appeal from the U. S. District Court decision with the Supreme Court of the United States.

Marshalyn completed her first two semesters and was home for the summer when, on May 29, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the U.S. District Court and ordered the case "remanded for consideration on its merits." In other words, Judges Bryan, Michie, and Butzner had to ren-

der an opinion; they could not abstain.

On July 17, 1967, the special three-judge panel unanimously and permanently enjoined the Attorney General of Virginia, the Commonwealth's Attorney of Amherst, and their successors in office, from seeking to enforce the racial restriction on Sweet Briar College.

The state of Virginia did not appeal the decision.

To this day, Newman bristles every time he hears the words "break the will." Indiana Fletcher Williams' legacy, after all, is still very much intact. He prefers to use the more accurate term "reinterpret the will."

Newman likes to preface a discussion of the 1960s case with a look back at another, earlier SBC court battle. One hundred years ago, in 1901, Amherst County challenged Mrs. Williams' bequest, arguing that the "school would never create any significant economic benefit for the county." The litigation ended with the fledgling Sweet Briar Institute forking over \$25,000 dollars to compensate. In the decades following, the College grew to become one of the county's largest employers. "Which shows," says Newman, "how long-range projections don't always work out accurately."

Newman also likes to compare Sweet Briar's experience with another institution he was

involved with at the same time. "Lightning *never* strikes twice," laughs Newman, "but it struck twice for me."

During the 1960s, while navigating Sweet Briar through troubled waters, Newman was serving as president of The University Club in New York. At the time, he says, "Women enrolled in accredited institutions outnumbered men by 52 percent." Even so, the club resisted admitting women. Newman argued in favor on all fronts—moral, social, and financial—but the men would not budge. Only later, after spending several years in court and \$700,000, the club took Newman's advice and opened its doors to females.

It is tempting to attribute Newman's success to his legal insight and executive dexterity—not to mention his respect for equal rights.

When asked point-blank what it was that enabled him to remain standing through those years—through a decade of lost friends, terrible accusations, and stabbing insults—he does not need to reflect on his answer.

"It's simple," says Newman. "I didn't know enough to give up."



Ginger Newman Blanchard (l) and Bee Newman Thoyer with their father at the reception following the presentation of the Outstanding Alumna Award, 1994

J. Wilson Newman's outstanding service to Sweet Briar includes his unwavering support through one of the most tumultuous periods in the College's history, the 1963-1967 effort to reinterpret the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams.

Newman first served as a member of the President's Parents Council in 1957, when his daughters Ginger Newman Blanchard '60 and Bee Newman Thoyer '61 were students. He was elected to the Board of Overseers in 1960, the same year he was invited to speak at commencement. In 1963, he was elected Chairman of the Boards, a position that put him in the forefront of Sweet Briar's five-year legal battle to admit African-American students.

Newman shared President Pannell's goal of achieving and maintaining the highest liberal arts standards for Sweet Briar. For nearly half a century, the Newman family has generously supported the College's academic initiatives.

In 1965, the Newmans established the Connie M. Guion Award for a graduating senior who displays "excellence as a human being and as a member of the College." A decade later, the Kenmore Fund was estab-

lished to provide the government department with a student merit scholarship and a faculty stipend.

Ginger and Bee have continued their parents' legacy. Each has served as national chair for Reunion Giving and as chair of the Annual Fund. Ginger is a former member of the Board of Directors and Bee currently serves on the board. In 1994, the sisters were honored as recipients of Sweet Briar's Outstanding Alumna Award.

This year, Bee and her husband Brad created the Clara Collier Newman Endowment Fund in honor of her mother's strong belief in the total education of women. The gift was matched by her father.

"The greatest constructive influence in my life has come from women," J. Wilson Newman said in his 1960 commencement address. "Starting with my mother who was born at Kenmore here in Amherst County...my wife—wha is embarrassed by this reference to her, and my daughters whose permission I requested to appear before you—each has by deed and thought influenced my life and led me to higher ideals and greater efforts."

The First Marshalyn Yeargin '68 Arrives On Campus 1966

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Marshalyn Yeargin '68 was not an activist. Until the national press started calling her at home, she had no idea that she was going to be Sweet Briar College's first African-American student. Her motive, she explained, was far more personal and practical. She wanted to be a doctor. At Sweet Briar, she would get the solid science background she needed to continue her education.

Marshalyn was surprised to hear reporters use the words "test case." Her family had a strong tradition of academic achievement. Her great uncle, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, received his undergraduate degree from Bates in 1920 and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1935. Her mother and father were college-educated school administrators and teachers. At the age of 18, Marshalyn had



already successfully completed two years at Bennett College. Her brother was about to begin his freshman year at Morehouse College.

Growing up in a middle-class family in the segregated South, Marshalyn never questioned her academic abilities and professional goals. Only later, long after she had graduated from Sweet Briar, would she come to fully appreciate the power of her self-esteem and the African-American community that fostered it.

Marshalyn's parents, Grady and Willie Mae Yeargin, had the means to shield their children from the most demeaning aspects of segregation. Direct contact with whites was practically nonexistent. Three cars in the driveway assured that Marshalyn would never have to move to the back of the bus. Long-distance travel was made comfortable with stopovers at the homes of family and friends. Up-to-date encyclopedias at home compensated for the fact that Marshalyn's schoolbooks were stamped "discarded" and she was not permitted to use the public library downtown until she was a junior in high school.

"Black parents understood the rules," says Marshalyn. "And they avoided situations where their children would have to confront the ugliness of segregation. We were sheltered. I didn't have any negative experiences."

man year, Marshaly'n's mother died. For months afterward, unremitting grief doused her ambitions. She returned to Bennett and went through the motions. The comfort of close friends and the familiar routine made life bearable.

"I woke up suddenly near the end of my sophomore year," recalls Marshaly'n. "I thought, gosh, if I'm ever going to transfer I'd better do it now. I consulted my uncle, Dr. Benjamin Mays. He gave me a list of



Washington Post staff writer
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[illegible]

Washington Post SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1966

When She Applied to Sweet Briar

Brambles Weren't Expected

By Meryle Secrest

Washington Post staff writer

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Marshallyn has been bombarded by phone calls ever since it was learned that Sweet Briar College's Board of Trustees had accepted her.

Anne Gary Pannell, Trustee

By Meryle Seestr
Washington Post Staff Writer

The first Negro student ever to attend Sweet Briar College, Va., "didn't figure big fuss" about her admission this month.

Marshelyn Yeargin of Greenville, S.C., said that she applied to the exclusive girls' school "without knowing I would be the first Negro accepted. I must say, I feel a little more excited about going there now."

Marshals has been bombarded by phone calls ever since it was learned that Sweet Briar College's Board of Trustees had decided to desegregate and admit her, despite racially restrictive language in its founder's will.

THE DECISION was made in May but not made public until this week, when the parents of Sweet Briar student received letters from the college's president, Dr.

Marababyn wants to be a doctor and hopes to go straight to medical school. She knows which one. She says she has wanted to be a doctor since childhood. The death of her mother in 1967, after a long illness with cancer, was the further reason to want to study medicine.

Her father, Grady, also lives in Greenville and her brother, Grady Jr., 16, will be a freshman at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., this fall.

MARSHALYN is receiving financial assistance from Sweet Briar, and will live in a single room in one of the dorms. She is the only student accepted this

[illegible]

SWEET BRIAR is the last girls' college in the South to lower its racial barriers. Others which have already done so include Agnes Scott in Decatur, Ga., and Sophie Newcomb in New Orleans. The segregation decision has aroused very little comment from its alumni.

"The reactions all came three years ago when the matter first came up when the campus was in the hands of the president, C. Linsey," alumni James who came to the school in 1954 said.

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law that the change was
able, withdrew their
and financial sup-
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on the fact that
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United Press International
MARSHALYN YEARGIN, SWEET BRIAR STUDENT
first Negro accepted at the Virginia college

During the trip, Marshalyn thought about Autherine Lucy, the University of Alabama's first black coed. Just ten years before, in 1956, Autherine was welcomed to the Alabama campus with a cross burning. She was pelted with eggs, bottles, and bricks and suspended for her own protection.

"I was a little concerned," admits Marshalyn. "But I consoled myself, thinking: Well, the people at Sweet Briar are well-bred. And well-bred people will not throw things at me.



the possibility of transferring. The office wrote back that it was too late.

Panicked, Marshalyn phoned her uncle and broke the bad news. "I read him the correspondence," she remembers. "He said, 'Write them back and let them know you're my niece'—i.e., tell them you're black."

The timing was flawless. Sweet Briar had recently been granted a temporary restraining order, preventing the state from enforcing the "white girls" clause in its charter. For the first time in 65 years, the board was seeking to admit a student exactly like Marshalyn.

Marshalyn boarded the train to Sweet Briar alone. Her father had faith that she would be safe. He also could not imagine taking a day off to accompany her. "I don't think my father ever missed a day of work," says Marshalyn. "Both my parents were hardworking, educated, churchgoing, law-abiding people—and I'm not exaggerating."

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before, in 1956, Autherine was welcomed to the Alabama campus with a cross burning. She was pelted with eggs, bottles, and bricks and suspended for her own protection.

"I was a little concerned," admits Marshalyn. "But I consoled myself, thinking: Well, the people at Sweet Briar are well-bred. And well-bred people will not throw things at me. We're all past that stage. My father and my uncle would not let me go to a dangerous place."

Sweet Briar greeted Marshalyn with open arms and promptly pelted her with a series of intellectual and emotional challenges. "Sweet Briar had an outstanding science program," she recalls. "In my upper level biology class, if I remember correctly, each student had three different types of microscopes. We were given assignments and told to get to work. I had never set up a microscope. At Bennett, groups of students took turns using scarce equipment. I had no hands-on experience. It took me a month to summon the courage to admit I didn't have a clue where to begin. I was so embar-

rassed.

"It was like joining a conversation in midstream. It took a while to figure out what people were talking about. I remember looking at my first biology exam thinking, This is from another planet! I was used to rote, reading the material and spitting it back, multiple choice and short answer. At Sweet Briar, I was being asked to take learning to the next level, to think analytically about the material."

Two biology professors went out of their way to help Marshalyn make up for lost time. "I was in Guion days, nights, and weekends, studying and praying—Dear Lord, what have I gotten myself into?" laughs Marshalyn. "Professors Jane Belcher and Elizabeth Sprague were so supportive. They would invite me to their homes. After I graduated, they stayed in touch with me. They were remarkable ladies. I know I would not have made it without them."

Socially, Marshalyn arrived at SBC feeling like an equal. She, too, was a debutante who had taken her share of ballet.

tap, and piano lessons. If there were problems regarding her race, she was too naive to notice.

Her room was a single with—and this was surprising at the time—no telephone. When she needed to make a call, she sometimes used her classmate's across the hall in Dew. "She was from Virginia," recalls Marshalyn, "and we became good friends. Close enough, in fact, that she eventually felt comfortable telling me how, in the beginning, she used to clean off the phone after I used it.

"She grew up being told that black people were dirty. I had no idea. It was a learning experience for both of us. My parents were so protective, I really didn't know anything about those types of images and attitudes. I came from an all-black world, from a community that told me I was wonderful and convinced me I could do anything—reach for the stars. That encouragement carried me a long way. A very long way. If there was a positive aspect of segregation, that was it.

"I can't say I had the time of my life socially," continues Marshalyn. "And that was probably for the best. Let's face it. I had a lot of work to do. I did buy tickets and invited my boyfriend up for Fall Weekend, only to find out that the country club would not let us attend. Of course, Sweet Briar didn't have

years to anticipate situations like that and neither did I. It was an awkward moment. There was no plan. We were all winging it."

Given the choice, Marshalyn would do it all over again. "I would never portray the College in a negative way," she says. "There were so many good people there who wanted me to succeed and who did their best to make me feel welcome. It would be unfair to fault the College for things like country club policies. So much of what happened was a reflection of the times.

"I prefer to focus on the outcome. I left Sweet Briar very well prepared for the challenges I was about to face in medical school at Emory. I also left with a tremendous sense of faith—faith not only in myself and my family, but faith in others."



Pediatric specialist, Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from SBC in 1968. She was the first African-American woman to enroll in Emory University's School of Medicine, earning her M.D. in 1972. For 19 years, Marshalyn has been serving at the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where she is Chief of the Developmental Disabilities Branch, Division of Birth Defects, Child Development, and Disability and Health.

As a physician and professor, Marshalyn regularly presents papers on children's health issues, including autism, blindness, cerebral palsy, child safety and disease prevention, epilepsy, fetal alcohol syndrome, and mental retardation. She publishes in the *Annals of Neurology*, *JAMA*, *Pediatrics*, and *The American Journal of Public Health*—to name just a few.

Marshalyn's husband, Dr. Ralph Allsopp, is a clinical psychologist in private practice. San Timothy recently earned his M.S.C. from the London School of Economics, and daughter Whitney is in her junior year at Emory. The Allsopp family is well acquainted with the SBC campus. "When I served on the Board," says Marshalyn, "they came along and did all the fun things. The campus is so beautiful. It was like a vacation."

Now that her children are older, Marshalyn reports that she is "busier than ever," traveling internationally for the CDC to places like China and Australia. She is a trustee of Pace Academy, a life member of the Atlanta Speech School, and a Hands on Atlanta volunteer.

In 1990, SBC's student Unity Club presented her with their first Black Woman of the Year Award. Marshalyn received the College's Distinguished Alumna Award in 1992.



Changes

1966-1976

It is impossible to review Sweet Briar's 1966-1976 decade without seeming to recognize patterns. The basic pattern was change, often precipitous change. The period began with a student body whose big sisters had been branded apathetic and overdomestic; the student of the sixties became politically aware both on and off the campus. There was a strong period of unrest in the middle of the decade from this trend, almost as if a behavioral scientist had drawn a bell curve to plot it; at the end of the decade, student attitudes and concerns had returned inward rather than outward.



Fitted into the first part of the bell curve is a period of physical growth at Sweet Briar; by the end of the decade, to remodel existing buildings rather than build new ones suited College needs. In the first part of the bell curve, demands for curriculum changes were heard; they became louder, particularly from students; by the time the bell curve returned downward in 1976, the curriculum

By Nancy St. Clair Talley '56

Excerpted from her article in the Fall 1976 75th Anniversary Issue of the Alumnae Magazine
Copy edited for length

Sweet Briar College Alumnae Magazine Centennial Issue



seemed stable temporarily, with some desire for a return to a greater degree of structure. In the first part of the bell curve, administrative and staff changes were minor; at the middle of the decade major changes were initiated with the installation of a new College president.

To some extent the changes during 1966-76 turn up as figures and statistics. The endowment, with a market value of \$8,195,000 in 1967, had a market value at the end of the 1976 fiscal year of \$14,304,000; the plant, valued in 1968 at \$7,593,000, grew to \$811,217,000. The comprehensive fee in 1966 was \$2,950; 1976's overall fee was \$4,900.

If you visited the 1976 Sweet Briar for the first time in ten years, you noticed changes in the campus. The Wailes Center, social hub of the campus since 1970, extended a gracious welcome to your right, across from the East Dell. You couldn't drive in the way you did before 1966;

Memorial Chapel, dedicated in April 1967, stands in the old driveway. You needed to go behind the Quadrangle and the academic buildings, passing a renovated Benedict and the Charles Dana Wing of the Mary Helen Cochran Library, added in 1967, to enter the campus from the West Dell area. The Connie Guion Science Center, across the road from Babcock Fine Arts Center, was dedicated in April 1966, and The Harriet Rogers Riding Center, beyond Monument Hill, in 1971.

The old Date House was a hostel where overnight guests—male—bunked inexpensively. There were more parking lots. A paddle tennis court behind Sweet Briar House was popular, and tennis had become an after-dark sport when lights were added to some courts. The Boat House had almost doubled in size. The cornerstone of the swimming pool was laid in February 1976 (the pool was in use by January '77). As the plant

changed, so did its use, most notably in summer programs for tennis and riding.

Some of the strongest physical growth of the College cannot be seen in its plant. Generous gifts during the decade came in many small packages and a few large ones. The Alumnae Funds from 1967 through 1976 totaled an impressive \$6.5 million. The largest alumna gift came from the estate of Ambassador and Mrs. Edward Thomas Wailes (Cornelia Wailes Wailes '26), a bequest of \$1.6 million. The largest single gift to the College, a \$2.2 million bequest in 1976, was from the estate of John Lee Pratt, benefactor of a number of Virginia educational institutions. In 1970 the College was awarded a National Science Foundation College Science Improvement Program (COSIP) Grant of \$203,916 to be used over a three-year period to improve seven departments. This grant and similar smaller ones followed the appointment of Julia Mills Jacobsen '45 as coordinator of government relations for a three-college consortium formed by Sweet Briar, Lynchburg College, and Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

A significant measure of change is shown by College catalogs. The knowledge explosion dominated the decade. "The biggest change in teaching and learning today is the challenge



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Study habitats are far-flung, particularly during Winter Term. A monthlong period of intensive study in one area became possible in the fall of 1971 when the College adopted the 4-1-4 plan: an autumn term and a spring term, both of conventional length, interrupted by a short winter term during which students pursue intensive courses on campus or design off-campus projects for themselves



Language lab with Glenn Van Treese, 1969

of expanding knowledge," said Dr. Milan Hapala, Carter Glass Professor of Government. Dr. Jane Belcher, Professor Emerita of biology, concurred: "Everything's completely turned over," she said. "We're teaching such things as the mechanism by which genes control the synthesis of proteins, which is basic to all of life—things we wouldn't have dared mention a decade ago. Fifteen years ago these things seemed beyond the realm of comprehension. Now we teach them to freshmen."

A movement toward multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary majors obviated the single major, and a student could tailor her own major to such interests as European civilization or environmental studies. Two new departments, the History of Art and Studio Art, emerged from the former art department, and a Theatre Arts Department combined drama, formerly under the English department, and dance, formerly under physical education. The comprehensive examination gave way to the comprehensive exercise as a requirement for graduation, and each department decided whether a written exam or some other form would be expected.

Not only what she studied, but where, when and how changed. Sweet Briar's distinguished Junior Year in France celebrated its 25th anniversary



Martha Holland '72 and Lilly Rappaport in physics lab, 1969

in 1973. Dr. Robert G. Marshall became the director of the program a year earlier, and it continued to attract intellectually energetic students from all over the country. The exchange program with St. Andrews University in Scotland remained strong. A student majoring in classics or history of art might spend the fall and winter terms of her third year at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome; upperclass students could spend fall term in the Washington Semester program conducted by American University or the junior year or fall term at the Washington Square and University College of Arts and Sciences of New York University. Students might also elect other off-campus and foreign study programs.

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The how of the curriculum was perhaps most changed by the machine. The first computer programming course was offered in January 1967 after the College joined with Lynchburg College and R-MWC to participate in the Educational Computer Center in Lynchburg. The Center was used for College records and for research projects in addition to instruction. Students in 1976 used desk calculators in math classes, recording mechanisms in the language laboratories, microfilm readers in the libraries, an electric saw to construct drama props, and greatly-improved machines for music listening and art slide viewing. Yet it wasn't really a machine age at Sweet Briar. It was still a teaching age, still the faculty that made the greatest impression on the students.

During the decade a number of faculty members died, teachers whom generations of stu-



Class of 1910, back for their 55th Reunion in 1965.

dents had come to think of as synonymous with Sweet Briar.

Other changes were not so final as death, but held unparalleled significance for the College. Anne Gary Pannell, fifth president, whose grace, scholarship and practical wisdom combined to make her a strong administrator and mentor for 21 years to Sweet Briar alumnae, retired in 1971. During the final five years of her administration she had been elected to a four-year term as national president of the American Association of University Women (1967-1971) and to a four-year term (1968-1972) as alumnae trustee of Barnard College, where as an undergraduate she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received the Gerard Gold Medal in American history and the Barnard International Fellowship. In 1966 she was decorated by the French government with the rank of *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques*.

Sweet Briar undergraduates saw her walking briskly toward her Fletcher office, in her scarlet Oxford academic gown (a student at St. Hugh's College, she was awarded a D. Phil. in 1935) and recognized her as a most feminine, most up-to-date version of Renaissance man, "open on all sides," as she was fond of saying, "to sunshine and light." Her achievements were an example and a standard. As if

her life story were being written by a novelist who did not fear happy endings, Mrs. Pannell was married in Sweet Briar's Memorial Chapel in June 1971, to the Right Reverend George Taylor, Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, Maryland.

Perhaps it was asking too much of the Board to find another Renaissance Woman to serve as president of Sweet Briar College. When Harold B. Whiteman, Jr., was installed as sixth president of the College in

October 1971, it seemed that Renaissance Woman had been followed by Renaissance Man.

Dr. Whiteman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University in 1941, with High Orations and Departmental Honors in international relations. His senior thesis, *Neutrality, 1941*, was selected for publication. Captain of the football team, he also helped to support himself by working at the student laundry, which he managed his senior year.

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Autumn dance at Boonsboro Country Club, Lynchburg, 1966



Loren Oliver conducts art studio

He served with the U.S. Army during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of Major in 1946. Dr. Whiteman earned the M.A. degree from Vanderbilt, and in 1948 returned to Yale, first as assistant dean of freshmen, then dean of freshmen, dean of undergraduate affairs, lecturer in history, and associate dean of Yale College. He received the Ph.D. from Yale in 1958. At New York University (1964-1971), he combined service as professor of history with successive positions as assistant to the president, assistant to the president for student affairs, assistant chancellor for student affairs, and vice chancellor for student affairs.

Catherine Strateman Sims, dean of the College since 1965, resigned in 1974. An honors graduate of Barnard College, Mrs. Sims studied at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London before taking the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Columbia University. She was professor of history and political science at Agnes Scott College when appointed dean at Sweet Briar. She shared Sweet Briar's awareness of foreign study benefits, having been vice president and dean of the American College for Girls in Istanbul (1960-1963), and Sweet Briar's emphasis upon community service, having twice been elected

Atlanta's Woman of the Year.

She was succeeded in Fall 1974, by Barbara Blair, A. B., Agnes Scott College, M.S., Ph.D., University of Tennessee, who had been associate professor of chemistry, a title she retained along with that of dean of the College. As dean of the College, she dealt with academic affairs, and a dean of student affairs was responsible for extra-academic facets of student life—discipline, housing, dormitories, health, and counseling.

Changes in the plant, the curriculum, the faculty and staff: seen from a distance, the decade appears orderly. But it was a time when students and faculty who had hastened to send relief to Florence after the terrible Arno flood returned one fall to find next-door Nelson County devastated by Hurricane Camille. Young men were dying in Vietnam in a conflict their contemporaries did not understand, students were killed at Kent State University in a confrontation that appalled the nation, students rioted in Paris, and occupied administration buildings on campuses across the United States. It was not a comfortable decade.

For Sweet Briar, the decade's opening found the College in the midst of litigation to reinterpret the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams, in order to permit the College to operate and grow in overall excellence by changing a

Today's student generation would see Anne Pannell as Early Liberated Woman, a description she might not like. She had been a happy wife, a loving mother, a successful teacher, a widely-admired administrator, and a true friend, and her achievements were an example and a standard.



On right: Suson Snodgrass '72

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*College. When Harold B.
Whiteman, Jr., was
installed as sixth presi-
dent of the College by
Robert C. Tyson of New
York, chairman of the
Board, in October 1971,
it seemed that
Renaissance Woman had
been followed by
Renaissance Man*

restricted admissions policy.

In May 1966 Sweet Briar was granted a federal injunction temporarily restraining legal authorities from enforcing the racial restrictions in the will. "From that arose my first memorable duty as student government president," remembers Mary Bell Timberlake '67. "Early one August morning I was jerked out of bed by an urgent call from Miss Jester (dean of students) informing me that Sweet Briar had accepted its first black student, Penny Yeargin, and asking me to come back early to help pave the way for this first. Penny was an outstanding first in every way. I remember her saying the only 'setting apart' she really noticed was that no one would bring up racial subjects at her dinner table."

Although student unrest was slow to come to Sweet Briar, changes were evident to even a casual visitor during the first half of the decade. "During Orientation Week 1967 each freshman was smartly dressed in her new McMullens and Pappagallos," wrote Claire Kinnett '71, president of Tau Phi, in the Summer 1971 *Alumnae Magazine*. "The fall of 1970 brought new students comfortably clad in blue jeans, turtlenecks, and bare feet. Similarly, the rigid social rules—six weeknight dates during the first year, cars for

second-semester juniors—have been altered to allow each girl to exercise her own personal code of responsibility."

"The late '60s was in my opinion a real transition period for Sweet Briar," said Ann Banks '68, head of the judicial committee her senior year. "The new administration and a basic change in attitudes in the early '70s resulted in a Sweet Briar different from what we knew. The widespread radical behavior of college students, their demonstrations for student rights and academic freedom (too often overly reactionary and violent), and the tremendous tension between students and college officials resulted in a highly volatile atmosphere on campuses throughout the United States. I believe that this extremism affected attitudes at Sweet Briar and that many of the changes at Sweet Briar were influenced by the same liberalism prevalent on other campuses."

"It was a period of enormous upheaval, alienation, unhappiness, and difficulty—the hard years," said President Emerita Anne Pannell Taylor. "It seems to me that parental passiveness caught up with us, so that when the children brought up permissively came to college they wanted little regulation. In addition, there was a new individualism among some of the younger members of the faculty, who felt a primary loyalty and interest to

their discipline rather than to the institution. There was an attack on established values, on such standards in education as traditional marking, on the honor system, on dormitory regulations. We were affected, though perhaps not so much as other campuses, by the drug culture. Those of us in authority found ourselves in very lonely positions.

"But we had the finest Board during that period that you can imagine. They never failed in trying to understand the changes in viewpoint of faculty and students. The senior men and women of the faculty were a great strength and assistance. None of us ever closed our doors."

Student unrest reached its





Marcia Bernbaum '69

Emphasis on intellectual life stands out in Kathy Pegues' mind

"One thing that stands out in my mind," says Kathleen Garcia Pegues '71, "is an emphasis on intellectual life right from the 'get-go.'

"I remember that when my acceptance letter came from Nancy Baldwin, another letter shortly followed from President Anne Gary Pannell requiring all incoming freshmen to read Marshall McLuhan's book *The Media is the Mind of the Extensions of Man*. We discussed this and wrote some too, as I recall. Similarly, when my daughter was accepted (Class of '00), she received a reader of the history of women's education from different voices and perspectives. Then, during Orientation, they revised the papers they arrived with.

"This exercise—extremely valuable, I think—provided a context for a discussion of standards of college writing before a penalty (a grade) was attached, AND it provided a discussion of the current relevance of historical issues in women's education, just as these freshmen were embarking on that journey.

"These two experiences, almost 30 years apart, give evidence that Sweet Briar is an intentional intellectual community, with instruction provided on a human scale, and that each woman is expected to find her voice and use it with persuasion and power."

peak at Sweet Briar in May 1970, when Cambodia and Kent State University were the trigger for activities that were as close to riot and revolution as Sweet Briar came during the trying time of upheaval. In the face of rallies, community meetings, teach-ins, and a vote to suspend classes the College remained as calm as possible. Either the dean or the president attended each speech or meeting, and the

police were kept off the central campus even though those in authority felt the situation came close to violence. It was a tense time, but it was not deplorable. "At best, the experience enhanced respect for freedom, for the society in which we live, with its many imperfections but also a tradition of freedom," said Dean Sims, speaking to alumnae returning for reunions immediately after what the dean termed "the Happening."

"At best," she continued, "the experience enhanced our students' belief that it is right to allow the discussion and expression of different points of view, that there is room for disagreement, and that those who disagree, and disagree strongly, on questions of public policy may be equally sincere."



Louisa Cahan '68

For Sweet Briar, the decade's opening found the College in the midst of litigation to reinterpret the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams, in order to permit the College to operate and grow in overall excellence by changing a restricted admissions policy.

"Imagine, as happened to me, hearing on a Thursday evening that American troops had invaded Cambodia, then driving to Princeton on Friday for House Parties Weekend only to find the entire campus on strike," said Kathy Upchurch '72, who later became head of the judicial committee. "Within a matter of days the college system of the United States—Sweet Briar was no exception—was beset by one of the most emotional periods I'm sure it's faced to date. Even I, a relative conservative, found myself consumed by what was going on in the world around me. I remember explaining to Mother that I would really have been worried and disappointed had Sweet Briar students not been struck by the same wave of emotion that swept thousands of others across the nation...I think for me the impact of the entire Cambodia-Kent State ordeal will long be vivid."

By September 1970 student social regulations were greatly modified. The student handbook that in 1966 had prescribed hem lengths (one inch above the knee) was in the miniskirt/blue jean era allowing beer on campus, men visiting in dormitories, and optional sign-outs for short or long absences from campus. Students had keys to their dormitories; curfews and overnight absence limitations were so lenient as to be negligible. "The 'handbook battle' was a bitter,

divisive struggle which produced nourishing fruits," says Barbara Offut '70, student government president. "The benefits lay not in the outcome, the new set of rules for social conduct, but in the process of questioning and doubting which generated the revised code. Problems of dorm keys, smoking areas, and curfews merely provided the facade of a structure which tested the relation of each individual to her own honor, and of individual to community."

The Student Government Constitution, revised in 1965, was changed again by 1972, removing social regulations from the honor system, and creating a house presidents council to deal with infractions of such regulations. The judicial committee remained an interpretive and disciplinary body for such serious honor offenses as lying, cheating, and stealing. "After being on the judicial committee for two years," said Sally Old '76, the committee's chairman in '75-'76, "I had the opportunity to evaluate the honor system from many viewpoints. Of course, no system is ever perfect, but I have the greatest respect for Sweet Briar's honor system. In light of the problems other colleges had with their honor systems, we can all be very proud of Sweet Briar's."

Whether it was satisfaction with the revised handbook and constitution, or that unrest had



Veronica Stubbs '73; Roslyn Monroe '73; Karen Webber '71

come to a boiling point and been treated fairly and wisely, or simply the temper of the times, the fact is that the last part of Sweet Briar's 1966-76 decade was considerably quieter than the first. To be sure the new president was greeted by streakers at Sweet Briar House one evening, but he was also elected early in his tenure to Aints and Asses. "I was greeted with a couple of strong requests," said President Whiteman, referring to student requests for relaxation of drinking and dorm-visiting regulations in 1971, "but since that time everything has remained calm."

Much that was both exciting and fine took place on campus. In March 1967 the first student-sponsored symposium, "Tempo '67," brought Edward Albee, John Updike, Ralph Pomeroy, Art Buchwald, Charlie Byrd and others to campus for a three-day concentration on contemporary

The Class of 1967 came to Sweet Briar dressed in ladybug sweaters and skirts, circle pins, and Pappagallo shoes consistent with the dress code at the time. Four years later, we shopped exclusively at the Army Navy surplus store and wore combat boots and blue jeans.

—Michela English '71



Mary Cantey '68

The student handbook that in 1966 had prescribed hem lengths (one inch above the knee) was in the miniskirt/blue jean era allowing beer on campus, men visiting in dormitories, and optional sign-outs for short and long absences from campus. Students had keys to their dormitories, and curfews and overnight absence limitations were so lenient as to be negligible.



Moving in, 1970

arts. Its success encouraged "Tempo '69, The U. S. and the Changing '60s," and a "Black Symposium" in 1970. The shock of Watergate caused a three-part symposium during November 1973, "Current Crisis in National Government." The 75th Anniversary Celebration, divided into a February and an October session, brought outstanding women in public life and outstanding alumnae to the campus.

Relatively minor changes affected campus life after 1966: half the meals were served buffet style; the laundry gave way to a self-service laundromat, the night watchman was replaced by professional security guards, and a guardhouse at Wailes Center was staffed by a security "greeter" on staggered hours.

A portion of the Pratt Bequest made possible a new scholarship program that seeks outstanding young women ("Sweet Briar Scholars") to receive financial assistance on the basis of academic achievement and promise rather than financial need.

Neither special events nor disturbing events during the decade effected a detour from the cause of sound teaching and sound learning to which the College is dedicated. For a women's college, the new feminism was significant. "Women's lib was just beginning to be heard at Sweet Briar when I

graduated," said Bryan Alphin Bente '69, ranking scholar in her class. "but the best possible defense, or offense, for a woman working in a 'man's world' had been given to me there—that is, a confidence that being a woman in science is not strange or wrong if being in science (or art, or music, or whatever) is right for the woman in question. After four years of having my successes or failures judged on their own merits and not biased by my sex, I had learned to try to apply the same kind of unbiased analysis to myself."

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

Miss _____			
Room _____	Building _____		
Date _____	197 _____		
No. Pieces	Articles	Price	Charges
	Aprons, Plain	.05	
	Aprons, Ruffled	.15	
	Bath Mats	.15	
	Bathrobe	.15	
	Bed Spreads	.15	
	Belts	.02	
	Blankets, Cotton—S.	.15	
	Blankets, Cotton—D.	.25	
	Blankets, Wool—S.	.35	
	Blankets, Wool—D.	.50	
	Blouses	.15	
	Brassieres	.03	
	Collars (Dickies)	.05	
	Curtains, Plain	.20	
	Curtains, Ruffled	.50	
	Dresses	.25	
	Gym Suit	.15	
	Handkerchiefs	.01	
	Napkins	.02	
	Nightgowns	.15	
	Pajamas	.15	
	Panties	.01	
	Pillowslips	.03	
	Rugs, Small	.10	
	Rugs, Large	.25	
	Scarfs	.05	
	Sheets	.06	
	Shirts	.12	
	Shirts, Athletic	.12	
	Shorts	.05	
	Skirts	.15	
	Slacks (Blue Jeans)	.15	
	Slips	.10	
	Smocks	.20	
	Socks (pair)	.01	
	Table Cloths	.10	
	Towels, Bath	.03	
	Towels, Hand	.02	
	Towels, Tea	.02	
	Undershirts	.05	
	Washcloths	.01	
	Total		\$1.15
	Allowance		
	Excess		

"While every reasonable care will be exercised, all items will be laundered only at the owner's risk. The Laundry will not be responsible for jewelry or other



The Class of 1972 made the 25th decked out as flower children; singing to the tune of "Feelin' Groovy," they threw flowers into the Convocation audience, and declared themselves grateful for what Sweet Briar has given them. L-r: Susan Snodgrass Wynne; Rhonda Griffin Durham; Katherine Upchurch Takvorian; Virginia Upchurch Collier.

Photo by David Abrams

Elizabeth "Keedie" Grones Leonard '76: Important People and Memories

People who have been especially important to Sweet Briar include: Harriet Rogers for the Physical Education and Riding programs; Paul Cronin, who made the Riding Program what it is today—a real admissions and alumnae draw; Kitty Seaman, whose 'Marriage and the Family' course was really a 'how to' for life; Milan Hapala, who brought a worldly perspective to our rural campus; Peter Daniel, a hard-nosed finance man; Anne Pannell, who inspired the 'Woman Can' idea; 'Hot Dot' Jester, who kept the SBC 'lady' alive through a hard period; Joe and Edna Lee Gilchrist '26—big believers in and supporters of the SBC 'community'; the Prothro family for their wonderful support in so many areas; the Riding Center donors.

Memories abound! The old Refectory and waitresses; the streaking event; pie-throwing for charity \$; the Sweet Tones serenading at night; hours and hours at the Riding Center, plus shows and hunts; the Bistro; HoJo's in your nightgown; truckloads of UVA guys to the Boat House for parties; meeting signs on the bathroom stalls; Mother Mackie's; Grammer Commons shows; Ass Shows; Bum Chums; 'FLUSHING'!; The Pit; all-nighters; Comps; Senior Seminar.

I believe that Sweet Briar's ability to grow (often in 'new directions') and stay current while still supporting the tenets of a liberal arts education for women and not losing the traditions and size that bond generations of women together, is all-important.

SBC gives you the same basics you could get elsewhere, but then adds amazing opportunities and flexibility to explore and create in many different directions.

The student at SBC really controls the outcome of her education—a big responsibility!



The Sweet Briar girl of 1968 was ready to change, and the seeds of change had long since been sown by students before that time. Why did it all happen so fast? Well, I think we had a lot of catching up to do.

—Kathy Upchurch

The Ewald Scholars program: Off to a Fine Start!

The Ewald Scholars Program was established in 1977 by Jane Roseberry Ewald Tolleson '52 and her late husband, John A. Ewald, Jr. In 1981 Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ewald, Sr. permanently endowed the program honoring their son.



Jane Goodall, right, with Margaret Medlock '81 and Deidre Platt '83

World-renowned ethologist and director of the Gombe Research Centre, Tanzania, Jane Goodall was the first participant in the Ewald Scholars Program, coming to campus several successive years to share the results of her longtime close study of the wild chimpanzees of the Gombe

Stream Reserve. During this time, she served as visiting professor of anthropology at Sweet Briar. Her lectures and slide presentations drew SRO crowds on each of her two-three day visits, which included special programs for secondary school students, some coming by school bus from as far away as Richmond.

Most memorable of these occasions was the 1981 program, "Hominids and Pongids: What We Can Learn About Humankind from the Apes," which brought together on the Babcock stage four of the world's foremost primatologists: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Biruté Galdikas, and Francine Patterson. Through two full days of morning, afternoon, and evening lectures, films, slide shows, a panel presentation, and question/answer sessions, they shared information about their studies in field and laboratory on chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans.

Gilbert M. Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic

Society and member of SBC's Board of Overseers from 1972-1980, acted as moderator for the lecture sessions; Mary Griswold Smith, senior assistant editor, *National Geographic* magazine, moderated the panel presentation.

Jane Goodall spoke on "The Chimpanzee: Hunter and Toolmaker" and "The Gombe Baboons and Their Relation to Chimpanzees." Biruté Galdikas, director of the Tanjung Puting Research Center, Borneo, addressed "The Orangutan and Hominoid Evolution." Dian Fossey, project coordinator, Karisoke Research Centre, Rwanda, discussed "The Survival of Free Ranging Mountain Gorilla Groups." Francine Patterson, president and research director, The Gorilla Foundation, told of "Koko: A Gorilla Who Talks" and "Experiments in Primate Communication." The panel covered "What We Can Learn About Humankind from the Apes."



A Very Good Time:

Dean Sims Remembers 1965-1974

By Mary Malyneux Abrams '86

Catherine Sims served as dean of the College for nine years, from the summer of 1965 through the summer of 1974. Those dates—encompassing civil rights, anti-war, women's rights, and other student movements—would send a shiver down the spine of most college administrators, but not Catherine.

"From my administrative point of view," says Catherine, "it was a very good time. We had ample student applications and very good enrollment. In fact, we had as many well-qualified students as we could cope with. Dips were expected and did eventually occur. But in my time, demographics were not an issue.

"One of the main characteristics of the student body was to have a great interest in what was going on in the world. The long tradition of the St. Andrews and Junior Year in France programs meant that every senior class had students who had been abroad. One of the things I was able to do was to enlarge those opportunities. Our students were able to attend reputable programs in countries like Spain and Italy. Martha von Briesen, then director of public relations, created a brochure called *Foreign Study for Juniors* that pleased President Pannell no end."

When Catherine arrived in 1965, Sweet Briar's legal action to obtain an open admissions policy was well underway. She remembers attending the U.S. District Court hearing in Charlottesville, listening to Sweet Briar's constitutional consultant, Thomas S. Currier, argue on the College's behalf.

"Mr. Currier was a young lawyer and a member of the faculty of the University of Virginia Law School. During his presentation, he claimed that a failure to diversify would put the College at a great, long-term disadvantage. One of the judges responded, 'Well, Mr. Currier, that's an opinion, isn't it?' And he answered, 'Yes it is, your Honor.' "

Catherine can't explain why she remembers that moment so well, except that the matter was so important, any hint of a setback fixed her attention.

"There were people in the wider community who were very much against the College's decision to reinterpret the will," Catherine recalls. "But on the campus itself, you would never know the issue was there. Sweet Briar's decision and desire to enroll students regardless of race was very solidly set by the time I arrived. There was no debate over admitting Morshalyn Yeargin. The outlook was one of

anticipation. The day had finally arrived. Of course she was coming."

Halfway through Catherine's tenure, student interest in what was going on in the world began to center on the war in Vietnam. Again, her experience runs counter to the prevailing image of the period.



"It was a time of student unrest over U.S. foreign policy," Catherine explains. "We saw a great deal of student concern. I can't say they were all opposed to the war, because they weren't all opposed. Student opinions varied and nothing disorderly happened. We had gatherings. Speeches were made. There was an effort to get the facts straight.

"What happened at Sweet Briar was so low-key compared to what happened at other institutions. I remember with gratitude the courtesy of the students. Students were polite in those days, which did not mean they agreed with you. Often they didn't. But disagreements took the form of rational discussions. They were very bright, concerned, and civilized young people—I hope they still are."

In retrospect, Catherine considers her nine years at SBC to be the happiest of her professional life. "I don't think I enjoyed any job as much," she says. "The variety of responsibilities was wonderful. You didn't have a block around you; you were allowed to be yourself and contribute to the life of the College.

"The general standards of the College—the admissions policy, the educational program, the quality of the faculty—were excellent. Those strengths carried us through the anxieties of the era to the benefit of our students—even if they didn't think so at the time."

The Spring of '70 at Sweet Briar

In the spring of 1970, students at Sweet Briar, like students at many other colleges, went out on strike to protest the incursion by the United States and South Vietnam into Cambodia and the killing of four students at Kent State. The strike is a subject of some controversy. I should make a couple of matters clear before saying anything more about these events. First, I am hardly an objective observer. I was an active though not particularly important participant in these events at Sweet Briar. At the time, I believed that we could hardly have done less than we did to respond to the situation as we saw it. I still think that way. If, however, I cannot be fully objective, I can at least avoid being judgmental.



By Michael D. Richards
Hattie Mae Samford Professor
of History, SBC
*Excerpted from a Spring 1989
Alumnae Magazine article*

In the spring of '85, preparing to speak at Reunion, I asked members of the Class of '70 [15th Reunion] to write or call to let me know how they had viewed events then. Some of those responding told of being hounded or ostracized for not sharing then-prevailing opinions. Some had since revised their ideas, others had not. The point of that testimony is that people saw the situation in different lights—perhaps an obvious conclusion but one that was not easy to see then. At the time I found it difficult to understand how people could not support the strike and other efforts to protest against the war. Now I have only respect for those who responded to the crisis, whatever the nature of response.

I want to sketch in some background before discussing the events at Sweet Briar. The war in Vietnam, the central element of the protest movement, had been going on, with a few years of peace in the 1950s, since shortly after the Second World War. The United States had been involved in various ways almost from the beginning, but until 1963 its commitment in both men and material was limited. That year there were approximately 15,000 military advisors from the United States in South Vietnam. The following year Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave President Lyndon Johnson



virtually unlimited power to wage war without a formal declaration. By December 1965 troop strength had reached nearly 200,000. In 1966 it doubled to nearly 400,000. By early 1968 it seemed to have leveled off to approximately 540,000.

The Tet Offensive in January and February 1968 shocked American public opinion. Viet Cong penetrated the grounds of the American Embassy in Saigon and VC and North Vietnamese regulars attacked nearly every major city in South Vietnam. The Tet Offensive was carried out at great cost to the VC and North Vietnam. The United States and South Vietnam could legitimately claim a military victory. Psychologically, however, the effects were devastating. Numerous Americans had

believed President Johnson and others who for several years had claimed to see the "light at the end of the tunnel." The Tet Offensive brought into question any previous claims that victory was near or that the South Vietnamese would ever be able to defend themselves. Even people within the Johnson Administration began to question in a serious way the likelihood that the war could be won.

As the war had widened, a peace movement had grown up alongside. The beginnings date back to 1965 with a series of "teach-ins," efforts to acquaint Americans in colleges across the country with facts about the war and with reasons why the United States should not be involved in it. In October 1967 the protest against the war increased greatly in terms of visibility and press

coverage with the March on the Pentagon, described in his usual charmingly egocentric way by Norman Mailer in *The Armies of the Night*.

The peace movement was divided. Some went so far as to favor the Viet Cong and to regard the protest against the war as their contribution to some sort of world revolution. The majority of Americans protested against the war as an activity that was misguided or counterproductive. Many, of course—those of draft age and those whose sons, brothers, lovers, husbands or friends were of draft age—had personal stakes in the protest.

Nineteen sixty-eight was a crucial year. The Tet Offensive and conclusions that many in the Johnson Administration drew from it convinced President Johnson that it would be in his interest and in the best interest of the country not to seek another



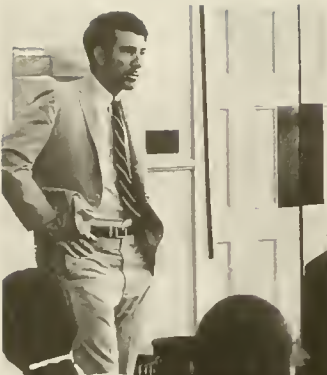
While a Sweet Briar News story on the Self-Study in progress in 1969 cited, as a major conclusion of the study, student apathy as a serious problem, other stories from the paper furnish evidence to the contrary.

er term. Over the next few months an extraordinary series of events occurred. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in April was followed by a student strike and takeover of the administration building at Columbia. At Columbia, Tom Hayden called for "two, three, many Columbias" in imitation of the Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara who, a few years before, had talked of the need for "two, three, many Vietnams." The assassination of Robert Kennedy, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, seemed to many the final unbelievable event. However, it was easily topped by the August Democratic Convention in Chicago. American TV viewers were treated to a new spectacle: the "police riot." Young radicals were beaten senseless and bloody in the streets of the city while the convention, meeting under tight security, nominated Hubert Humphrey as its candidate for president. The system seemed to be cracking under the strain.

One way of looking at the '60s entails seeing 1968 as a high point, a dramatic culmination of much that had gone before. According to this thesis, the counterculture and radical politics began to lose momentum, to splinter. Certainly, if one follows the disintegration of the SDS (Students for a Democratic

Society) into the Weathermen faction, which moved in the direction of guerilla-style campaigns and terrorism, or if one traces the way the counterculture folded back on itself and concentrated on drugs and rock music, it is difficult not to believe that whatever promise the '60s had, had disappeared by the late '60s and early '70s. To this idea of peaking and then disintegration, one might add the extent to which American commerce, ever alert to the possibility of making a buck, seized on elements of the counterculture and protest movement. A good example of this would be the Broadway musical *Hair*, opening in 1968, supported by mostly middle-class audiences paying good money to be shocked by flesh, profanity, and references to drugs and deviant sex practices. By the 1970 appearance of "*Getting Straight*," an obscenity of a movie starring Elliot Gould and Candice Bergen, both the counterculture and radical politics had been turned into a commercial product.

There is much truth in the idea that many elements central to the '60s either disappeared or were distorted after the traumatic year 1968. However, I would like to emphasize the persistence of protest against the war in Vietnam. This not only lived on; it reached a peak in '69- '70 and only finally ceased when





American involvement in the war ceased.

It has taken me a long time to get to Sweet Briar, fall semester, 1969. Sweet Briar in this period is interesting because it demonstrates in a microcosm the ideas I have sketched. By '69 Sweet Briar had undergone many changes. It had greatly increased in size in the early '60s. It had challenged the prevailing interpretation of the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams and had begun to admit black students. Students generally were aware of and concerned about many of the issues being debated nationally.

While a *Sweet Briar News* story on the Self-Study in progress in 1969 cited, as a major conclusion of the study, student apathy as a serious problem, other stories from the paper furnish evidence to the contrary. "Tempo," a student-organized symposium, showcased avant-garde artists, writers and filmmakers in 1968. In '69 it brought a number of political activists, Tom Hayden among them, to campus. Finally, in the spring of 1970, it sponsored a symposium on the "...Black Man in America." New dress regulations were introduced in 1969. The question of parietais was

discussed. A Sex Information Committee (a most unfortunate acronym) was formed. Paint 'n' Patches staged "Viet Rock," a protest musical. A large crowd of students, faculty, and staff turned out on 15 October (which happened that year to be Founders' Day) to take part in the nationwide Moratorium, an event that had been organized as a dramatic expression of public opinion against the war.

In many important ways, Sweet Briar shared national interests and concerns. It reflected the increasingly vocal opposition to the war, an opposition that had lost some ground when some of its supporters wanted to use it as the basis for a revolution and that had lost additional ground while it gave Nixon a chance. The events of the spring of '70 can only be understood in the context of an intense national debate on American involvement in the war in Vietnam, a debate in which a large number of Americans stood firmly against the war.

On April 30, 1970, President Nixon announced that American and South Vietnamese forces had attacked communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. A few days later, Americans were stunned to

hear that National Guardsmen had killed four students and wounded several others at Ohio's Kent State University. The May 8 *Sweet Briar News*, the last issue of the year as it turned out, ran a front-page article on the National Student Strike. Over 300 colleges had gone on strike. The debate at Sweet Briar, to strike or not, was just the beginning. On May 7, a Thursday, about 100 students and a couple of faculty had a meeting in the Quad. Those at the meeting agreed to hold a teach-in Monday afternoon and a community meeting that evening to decide on whether to strike.

More than 700 people attended the Monday, May 11 evening meeting. Most of those speaking favored suspension of classes with no penalty for students who did not wish to complete course work or take finals. The vote at the meeting was 517 in favor,

198 against and 3 abstentions. A letter sent by the Steering Committee to parents to explain the strike and its purposes emphasized a moderate, constructive approach. "We stress the need for reform within the system."

The faculty met the following day to consider its response to the results of the community meeting. After much debate, it agreed that no student would receive an automatic "F" on the final exam for failing to take it. It was left to the judgement of the individual faculty member to determine the basis for a student's grade in a course. Many faculty let it be known that a student could accept whatever grade she currently had if she wished to participate in the strike movement. Some felt it imperative that students fulfill all the requirements connected with a particular course. The decisions that had to be made



Activist Tom Hayden spoke at Sweet Briar in 1969





Forum to discuss Cambodia

GIVE
NIXON
A
CHANCE!

It was not an easy time for students, either. Some, of course, regarded the strike as a party, an unexpected early vacation. Others, whatever their political sympathies, felt that they had to finish their course work.

were not easy ones. Faculty had to set the obligations of their profession against what some saw as the extraordinary needs of the moment.

It was not an easy time for students, either. Some, of course, regarded the strike as a party, an unexpected early vacation. Others, whatever their political sympathies, felt that they had to finish their course work. A large number plunged into the frenetic activities associated with the strike. Like most other '60s movements, the strike movement at Sweet Briar featured committees and the production of a great quantity of propaganda. Committees ranged from the "Sweet Briar Movement for a New Congress" to the "Area Action Committee" to the "Give-Nixon-A-Chance Committee." Those at the center of the strike went from committee meeting to the typewriter or ditto machine and back to another meeting. The intensity of these few days can be seen in the partial schedule for May 14:

9:30 a.m. Area Action Committee:

Facts on Vietnam; Intensive Discussion in Small Groups

12:00 p.m. Chapel:

"Poetry of the Music of Anguish"

3:00 p.m. "Canvassing, Lobbying and Campaigning: Ethics and Methods"

7:30 p.m. Area Action Workshops—Approaches in Amherst County

8:45p.m. Lantern Bearing

In addition to protest against the incursion in Cambodia and

the killings at Kent State, the strike had two important objectives. One was to begin organizing for a grass-roots effort in the fall to help elect peace candidates to Congress. A second was to provide information on the war to residents of Amherst County.

To some the events at Sweet Briar seemed only a pale imitation of events elsewhere or, more sinister, some kind of conspiracy put together by outsiders working with a few radical students and faculty. These are judgements that cannot be dealt with in any definitive way. Sweet Briar was about a week behind many other colleges and universities in going on strike. Students from Princeton apparently had some influence on the course of events. Yet, some of those active from the start believe that it was an indigenous movement, Sweet Briar's own response to national events. Clearly, some of the hotbeds of radicalism in academe had taken the lead. The Sweet Briar community had followed, but in its own way.

The efforts to reach the wider community of which Sweet Briar is a part were not successful. Amherst County residents who came into contact with Sweet Briar students that May were unfailingly polite but equally unconvinced by earnest endeavors to enlighten them. The next fall a relatively small

number of students took part in the attempts to elect peace candidates to Congress. It was not much different elsewhere in the United States. Massive acts of public protest had done about all that they could do to change the nature of American politics.

The fact that results limped far behind expectations in 1970 should not lead us to regard the strike at Sweet Briar and elsewhere a failure. That Sweet Briar staged a strike is one indication of just how far challenges to authority and new ideas had permeated the fabric of American life. The various currents at work across America were active at Sweet Briar, too.

For a brief period of time that May, those of us at Sweet Briar and many other colleges nationwide experienced something quite rare: the feeling that we were part of a momentous historical development. That what developed turned out to be not so momentous, that whatever the '60s are as a period in history turns out to be a mosaic of developments, most of them less dramatic and stirring, takes nothing away from that moment of high crisis and common response.

Hard Rain:

Professor Lee Piepho's First Year at SBC

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Professors Lee and Susan Piepho came to campus in August 1969 on the heels of Hurricane Camille. They drove from Charlottesville, where they had completed their doctoral studies at the University of Virginia. Lee was joining the College's English department. Susan joined the chemistry department several years later.

"It was one crazy time," laughs Lee. "In the wake of Camille, immense amounts of mud were left covering newly completed sections of route 29. The damage was overwhelming. Portions of the bypass were never dug out. The feeling was 'let the devil take it.' We literally drive on top of those buried roads today."

In addition to settling in and planning his courses, Lee volunteered to help a faculty group headed by professors John McClenon (chemistry) and John Shannon (music) rebuild houses in Nelson County. "It was an alarming sight," remembers Lee. "Thirty inches of rain had fallen in only eight hours. In Massie's Mill there was nothing but river boulders and tree stumps. I had never seen anything like it before—ever."

The academic year that began with Hurricane Camille ended with another shock: the American invasion of Cambodia and the shootings at Kent State University on May 4, 1970.

Unlike Camille, Lee was braced for the aftermath of Kent State. Student protests were something he had seen before. Both he and Susan had been graduate students at Columbia University, where anti-war demonstrations had escalated throughout the 1960s.

"In 1966," says Lee, "Columbia had a full-scale dress rehearsal for the student strikes of 1968—cops, clubs, dogs—all of it. It was a powder keg."

The all-male University of Virginia was relatively quiet when the Piephos arrived, but "flipped" during their stay. "You could see it coming," says Lee, "especially among undergraduates facing the draft."

At Sweet Briar, English department chairman Professor Dick Rowland brought Lee up to date on recent events, giving him a sense of where the College stood at the close of the 1960s. "It was an unusual time," Lee explains. "Sweet Briar was still experiencing fallout from the reinterpretation of the will. Dick had been very active in that movement and talked about it a lot." However, Lee points out, "After 'the case' was successfully closed, the College had no time to



stop and catch its breath." The civil rights movement was one aspect of a broader, decade-long social and cultural revaluation that left no institution unscathed.

Lee saw dramatic changes take place over the course of the academic year. Dress codes, which had been fraying for some time, finally disintegrated after the start of the fall semester. "Students went from skirts to bell bottoms—bang!—overnight," he recalls. "I was teaching in 301 Fletcher—about one month into the course—when a designated student came up and asked permission for the class to wear pants. I told her in so many words that I didn't care what they wore to class provided they wore something. I really hadn't thought about it."

By the end of the spring term, wearing bell bottoms to class was no longer an issue. The new question was whether or not to attend classes at all. After National Guardsmen shot four students during an anti-war protest at Kent State, campuses across the country were closing down as students elected to go on strike. Lee took Sweet Briar's strike in stride, giving his students flexibility with final papers and exams. "The faculty was divided over what to do," recalls Lee, "but it's not worth raking those coals."

Weather and war dominated the headlines during Lee's first year, obscuring an emerging issue that would preoccupy the College in the years ahead. "There was another current running in 1969," says Lee. "That was the year the University of Virginia went coed. To some extent, it marked the beginning of problems with self-definition for Sweet Briar. Why remain a women's college? What was our mission? Wasn't coeducation the natural, obvious thing to do?"

"It was a rough time. But I wouldn't trade it for anything. In the decades that followed, so much of the larger culture continued to play out on the Sweet Briar campus because so many national concerns directly or indirectly revolved around women. In terms of ongoing social change, this was the place to be."

Big Man on Campus:

A look back at the Whiteman years

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

President Harold B. Whiteman (1971-1983) had a theory about worship. He thought that services were more meaningful and satisfying when people were able to look into each other's eyes, as opposed to "sitting in their own little cocoons, staring at the backs of the heads of people seated in front of them." He tried to have the floor plan of the Sweet Briar Chapel



Harold B. Whiteman

rearranged into a circle, to promote a sense of warmth and togetherness.

President Whiteman did not succeed in his effort to alter the seating arrangement in the Chapel. But he did manage, with the help of his wife, Edith ("Deedie"), to achieve a similar goal in almost every other facet of campus life.

The Whitemans turned Sweet Briar House into an Open House. The rooms were redecorated in an inviting style and readied for entertaining. Everyone was welcome. "The kind of accessibility we've known," said the late Julia Sadler de Coligny '34, "cannot be taken for granted. Sweet Briar House has never been so charming, well-furnished, and tastefully decorated for each season of the year. The Whitemans have really spoiled us, and the best part of it is, they have seemed to enjoy it, too."

Her senior year, Lochrane Coleman Smith '76, attended a meeting at Sweet Briar House, during which Deedie reminded the students that they were free to stop by anytime—breakfast, lunch, or dinner—the Whitemans would love to see them. "The next morning," Lochrane recalls, "I woke up early and thought, 'I'm going over for breakfast.'" She walked into the president's house unannounced, found Ruth the maid in the kitchen, and asked her if she'd mind putting an extra plate on the table.

"Here comes Deedie Whiteman," laughs Lochrane, "pretending to be delighted to see me. We sat down and had breakfast. Harold came down the steps in his bathrobe and said, 'Oh my God!' and walked back upstairs. We became very good friends. The Whitemans

came to my wedding. It was great fun."

The Whitemans were accustomed to discovering guests at their breakfast table. They had three children who brought carloads of friends home from Yale during vacations. In many respects, the Whitemans' active involvement in the student community—the meetings, recitals, and informal gatherings at Sweet Briar House—came naturally. They had a genuine spark, what Ann Marshall Whitley '47 called a Kennedyesque "vigah!" Which is not to say that the Whitemans were not conscious of their roles. For 12 years, their lives were carefully arranged to achieve a single, overarching objective: to make the learning process at Sweet Briar significant and memorable.

"The most important thing I tried to convey," says President Whiteman, "was a *joie de vivre* about academic work. I wanted students to enjoy studying. Once you discover pleasure in learning, you'll continue for the rest of your life. Simply doing what someone else tells you to do is no fun. Researching in the lab or the library on your own, following up on your interests, really getting into it, is rewarding. It's fun."

The president put his message across in the classroom, where he taught a course on foreign policy. He encouraged students to participate in campus

life by showing up himself at theatre and dance productions, on the tennis courts, in the Bistro, at lectures, and during swim meets. His interest in academic and co-curricular activities was evident and made a lasting impression on students. Seventeen years after graduation, Chris Svoboda '84 still remembers Whiteman saying, "If you leave this college eager to know more, feeling that you didn't learn enough in your four years here, then you have really received a Sweet Briar education."

President Whiteman's support of athletics is well documented (see "Body, Mind, and Spirit: The '70s revival of athletics at SBC lasts into the new century"). But his involvement went beyond hiring coaches and



Martial arts class

raising funds for renovations and new construction. The Whitmans created an award for the outstanding scholar-athlete of the year. Attention was not limited solely to competitive sports. Facilities for the dance program were upgraded during the Whiteman administration, and recreational havens like the Boat House and Outing Cabin

were restored.

Prior to Whiteman's arrival, Benedict (then called Academic) consisted of classrooms, each one containing a single faculty office. The complete renovation of the building included clustering departmental offices together at the end of each hall, filling classrooms with comfortable chairs placed around large



Professor Gerry Berg and a student try out the new Parcourse

Though he was realistic about the strains of work and family life, Whiteman hoped that increased opportunities for women in the workplace would ultimately strengthen marriages and families, and lead to a new level of sharing.

The whole world has changed, not just Sweet Briar. The mood has changed from a more outward concern to a much more self-centered concern about such things as getting jobs. In some ways, this change is not entirely good. There is a certain loss of idealism—students realized they could not change the world overnight and so they stopped trying.

—Harold Whiteman, 1976

tables, and also creating a space (Tyson Auditorium) where groups could gather for lectures and presentations. Whiteman delighted in the layout, which he hoped would encourage interaction between colleagues and among faculty and students.

Whiteman's brand of leadership centered on the very complex business of community building. He was good at it. "I've met so many people from Yale who just loved Harold Whiteman," says Lee Piepho, Sweet Briar's Sara Shallenberger Brown Professor of English. "He had been an associate dean at Yale before he went on to become a professor

and administrator at New York University. At NYU, he walked into all the stuff, all the wars of the late 1960s.

"We were lucky to catch him in many ways," continues Piepho. "I believe the College was looking for a student-oriented president who was responsive, who understood the sixties social and cultural revolution. Harold really qualified on both counts. He was able to consolidate a lot of things that had been taking place at Sweet Briar, starting with 'the case' in the early 1960s. He changed the nature of the institution."

Midway through his tenure, in a 1976 interview for the

Sweet Briar 75th Anniversary Alumnae Magazine, President Whiteman told Nancy St. Clair Tally '56. "The whole world has changed, not just Sweet Briar. The mood has changed from a more outward concern to a much more self-centered concern about such things as getting jobs. In some ways, this change is not entirely good. There is a certain loss of idealism—students realized they could not change the world overnight and so they stopped trying.

"In our particular case, this turning inward is augmented by the realization that women can do more things. The increased opportunities open to women



Deedie Whiteman at a swim meet



make them more introspective and self-centered.”

Whiteman supported Carter Hunter Hopkins '68 in her effort to expand the services of the career planning office. As a college president swimming against the riptide of double-digit inflation (and consequently never getting faculty salaries as high as he wanted them to be), Whiteman understood the immediate concerns of young women facing an uncertain economic future. In addition to adding new majors and dual-degree programs, his administration backed certificate programs like Arts Management, granted credit for summer internships, and made it affordable for older women to start or resume their educations through the Turning Point Program.

Though he was realistic about the strains of work and family life, Whiteman hoped that increased opportunities for women in the workplace would ultimately strengthen marriages and families, and lead to a new level of sharing. “I tried to let students know,” says Whiteman, “that the goal should be sharing. Have a career and a family, yes, but do it as a couple—make it a team effort. Work toward sharing the responsibilities of professional, home, and community life. I realize it’s easier said than done. But that’s the message I was trying to get across.”

Whiteman’s energetic, uplift-

ing, participatory style revitalized the community. During the 75th Anniversary Campaign, Sweet Briar alumnae set a national record, reaching the highest level of participation ever achieved by a women’s college. The original campaign goal of \$10 million was exceeded by \$1.2 million in cash and pledges. When Whiteman retired in 1983, the Generations Campaign, begun in 1980, had already reached three-fourths of its \$12.1 million goal.

Big projects like the Benedict renovation, Prothro Natatorium, Prothro Commons, and the Pannell Gallery renovation were completed or near completion at the end of President Whiteman’s administration. Other smaller projects like the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), the Sweet Briar Museum, and the Sweet Briar Outdoor Program (SWEBOP) have flourished and continue to enrich

campus life. The “most wired” status the College enjoys today is traceable back to 1981 when Sweet Briar purchased and installed a DEC-2040 mainframe in the library’s “new” computer center. Another often-overlooked achievement: the financial aid office was established as a separate entity during the Whiteman years. By the beginning of the 1980s, one-quarter of the student body was receiving tuition assistance and Sweet Briar had achieved its enrollment goal of 750 students.

And who knows, sooner or later the College may decide it’s finally time to go into the Chapel to rearrange those pews.

Seventeen years after graduation, Chris Svoboda '84 still remembers Whiteman saying, "If you leave this college eager to know more, feeling that you didn't learn enough in your four years here, then you have really received a Sweet Briar education."

Embracing Reality

1980-1989

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

It was the first week of the fall semester. The phone was ringing—a seemingly non-stop occurrence in the dean's office during September. The caller was the anxious mother of a first-year student, expressing concern over her daughter's well-being. She wanted to speak directly to Bea Patt, dean of the College.

Bea listened and assured the woman that her daughter would live to tell the story of her first week of classes. Relieved, the mother ended the conversation saying, "Now, take care of my little girl for me, won't you?"

"No," replied Bea. "I'm sorry. She'll have to learn to take care of herself."



Fannie Zollicoffer '80 performs

To live a life, by which we mean not merely to pass the time or, worse, to kill time, takes preparation. There is no better preparation than a liberal arts education.

*—Beatrice Patt
Spring 1982 Alumnae Magazine*



Dean Beatrice Patt

From 1977 through Bea's retirement in 1982, any Sweet Briar student (or parent of a student) who questioned the capacity of women to succeed in college, in careers, and in life would have such doubts abruptly challenged and, if all went according to plan, thoroughly eradicated in the dean's office.

"Today," says Bea, "students arrive at Sweet Briar expecting to be independent, to think for themselves, to be their 'own woman.' That's the emphasis now. It's taken for granted."

Students in the late seventies and early eighties were still adjusting to a dazzling array of new opportunities. Admissions materials touted "self confidence" and preparation for "reality" as one of the key benefits of a Sweet Briar education. The Office of Career Planning was beginning to expand and add personnel. Graduates who chose fields like finance and law were applauded for breaking into "male domains." Alumnae returned to campus to provide tips on how to effectively "juggle" career and family responsibilities.

"I never doubted the value of single-sex institutions," says Bea. "I was educated in women's colleges and I have mourned the passing of most of them." Coming to Sweet Briar gave her a unique opportunity to see

what she could do. "I was struck by the feel of the place," Bea remembers. "The people and the setting seemed so right."

Of all the changes that took place during her tenure, Bea highlights the Turning Point Program for nontraditional-age students as one of the College's most significant achievements.

"The program," says Bea, "was close to my heart. Many of the first students were housewives who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend a first-rate liberal arts institution. It changed their lives and it was good for us too. It allowed the College to reach out and establish new ties with the surrounding community, and it diversified our student population."

Though Bea thoroughly backed the Turning Point Program,

she gives Bob Barlow, dean of student affairs from 1977-1995, full credit for implementing the idea. "He had more to do with it than anyone else," recalls Bea. "It was his baby in a lot of ways."

Often, when Bea thinks of the College, she thinks of the late Dick Rowland, Sweet Briar's Charles A. Dana Professor of English. "To me," says Bea, "he represented what Sweet Briar was all about. He was intellectual. He was curious. But he never took himself seriously. He was never pompous, which I really loved. Many people with his Oxonian background would be just the opposite, very standoffish. I never sensed anything like that about Dick. He was egalitarian. He had a spiritual nobility.

"Dick was thoroughly devoted to the College and I found that so admirable, especially

because he was equally as devoted to his family. He was well balanced — always at ease with himself. I looked forward to our chats, which is really how I got to know him. He'd just drop in."



Robert Shaw at Sweet Briar

Robert Shaw: Founders' Day Speaker in 1983

The great Robert Shaw's very serious address ("Each of us is a Founder"), delivered with ameliorating humor and memorable anecdotes, charmed the Founders' Day gathering in Babcock October 9, 1983. His wife, Caroline Sauls Shaw '58, was in the audience.

An Education For Reality: Sweet Briar College believes that in today's competitive world, where a woman faces greater opportunities and higher expectations, her education should lead her to knowledge, competence and independence. It should be an education for reality.





Professors Hapala, Edwards, Gilpatrick, Miller, Aiken, Oliver, and Armstrong occupy the front row at Commencement 1990.

President Fry: SBC's Second Century Starts Here

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Nenah E. Fry, Sweet Briar's seventh president, oversaw many changes during her tenure (1983-1990). The admissions program received special attention to ensure the College's position as a highly selective, nationally-recognized liberal arts

which the mission and goals of the College were defined and a strategic plan established.

"We have affirmed the mission of the College to prepare women for the challenges of the 21st Century," said President Fry. In keeping with this forward-looking objective, Sweet Briar's program development emphasized women's roles in a global and technological economy.

The College added Junior Year programs to its distinguished Junior Year in France, at the University of Seville in Spain, at Royal Holloway College and Bedford New College at the University of London, and at St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's College at Oxford University. At the same time, two interdisciplinary areas of study, Latin American Studies and European Civilization, were added to the curriculum.

As part of the academic emphasis under President Fry, the College greatly increased student and faculty access to personal computers with new or augmented facilities, including the Woody Learning Center. The faculty approved expanding SBC's innovative Honors Program for first-year students and sophomores. In addition, the Management Program became increasingly sophisticated, with certificates offered in Arts Management, General Business Management, and Public

Administration.

Under President Fry's leadership, the Bachelor of Science degree was reintroduced and plans were drawn for the renovation of Guion. The College initiated programs to encourage high school girls, especially minorities, to study mathematics and science.

President Fry drew special attention to the quality of campus life. At the time of her retirement, a total of five residence halls were in the process of being restored. Other capital projects included the first wing of the Florence Elston Inn, providing attractive and comfortable accommodations for campus visitors.

An eloquent public speaker, President Fry rallied the community in support of the College's immediate and long-term goals. During her seven years in Sweet Briar House, the endowment grew significantly, from \$24 million to \$44 million.

Time has not lessened the community's esteem for Nenah Fry. As the College's strategic planning efforts gradually shifted from the planning phase to implementation in the 1990s, the scope and accuracy of her 21st Century vision became increasingly clear.

Sadly, she did not live to see the College boldly enter the new millennium. She died of heart failure in April 1995 at the age of 62.



Nenah Fry at Commencement 1987

college for women. To this end, the Office of Admissions moved into a newly-renovated building (formerly known as Hill House) and developed new admissions programs and publications.

"Women's colleges are not designed for everyone," cautioned President Fry, "they are for young women who want to take charge of their own agenda."

Under President Fry's direction, the College initiated a process of strategic planning, in



A Lifetime Commitment: Professor Kay Macdonald puts President Fry's message in perspective

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

President Nenah E. Fry excelled at the job of public speaking. At her farewell dinner in the spring of 1990, Milan Hapala, Carter Glass Professor of Government, deemed President Fry "a master of language. As a speaker she is unsurpassed. I listened to her many times with admiration and a little envy mixed with anxiety, as I had to follow her on the speaker's platform, realizing that I could not match her eloquence. Nenah has stated the case for women's education with rigorous logic, a graceful style of expression, and compelling clarity. No one could escape her enthusiasm for the College and its mission."

Following Professor Hapala's lead, Nannette McBurney Crowds '57, then president of the Alumnae Association, described President Fry as the "Voice of Sweet Briar." She went on to announce the establishment of the Nenah Fry Lectureship in Public Speaking, a course underwritten by the Alumnae Association in recogni-

tion of the president's superb communication skills.

Everyone was in awe of Nenah Fry's gift. But until Professor Kay Macdonald stumbled across one of the president's earliest speeches, no one realized that she had truly spent a lifetime articulating her commitment to academic excellence.

Katherine Macdonald, Professor Emerita, taught in the Physical Education Department at Sweet Briar for 35 years. After her retirement in 1983, she remained on campus for several years and redirected her boundless energy to serve the community in many ways. A self-described "girl scout," Kay was the first to offer assistance when recently-retired President Fry needed help closing her family home in Chicago.

Kay went straight to work, assisting with the clearing and packing. In the process, she stumbled across something that elevated her already-high opinion of the president. "I read Nenah's high school valedictory speech, detailing her deep

understanding and great respect for education," recalls Kay. "It was all right there—everything Nenah stood for and cherished was in that speech. I realized that, starting at a very young age, she was determined to dedicate not just part of her life, but her whole life to furthering the ideas and values of education.

"I had always been impressed with Nenah's accomplishments. She earned her master's degree and her doctorate in European history from Yale. I knew that some of the students she taught early in her career at Wilson College still called on her for advice and support. As dean of the college at Wells and as president of Sweet Briar, she proved to be an effective, forward-looking leader and an outstanding spokesperson for women's education. Even so, I wasn't aware of the depth of her commitment until I read her valedictory speech. It put everything in perspective."

The "Sweet Briar experience" was very important for me and my 1980 classmates. Our class cherishes its years there; this is reflected in our support of the College. From our class we have artists, lawyers, investment bankers, doctors, publishers, retail buyers, mothers, and volunteers extraordinaire. Sweet Briar has shaped all our lives and given us fond memories of the time spent on our beautiful campus.

—Myth Monnich Bayoud '80





"My relationship to Sweet Briar has been a great milestone in my life."

Victor Henningsen

Member, Board of Directors 1974–1984

Chairman of the Board 1980–1984

There were many highlights and significant milestones that were meaningful during my tenure on the Board of Overseers and Directors and during my term as chairman. To name a few: the success of the Generations Campaign, the opening of the Pannell Art Gallery; the Presidential Search and inauguration of Nenah Fry.

Add to that the excellence of the Board, and the faculty and administration and their ability to work positively, successfully, and unselfishly for the greater good of Sweet Briar.

I have had the privilege of serving on and chairing other boards, but none that gave me greater pleasure and satisfaction than to be a part of the Sweet Briar family.

To come in close contact and to work with the alumnae of this college, whose loyalty and devotion to Sweet Briar is extraordinary, is not only an inspiration but a privilege of the highest order.

Dean Blair's Three Decades of Outstanding Progress

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

There was no such thing as a personal computer when Barbara Blair, dean emerita (1974–1978) and professor of chemistry emerita (1961–1993), arrived on campus at the start of the sixties. The Connie M. Guion Science Building did not exist. The notion that students would be using instruments like lasers in routine lab assignments was in the realm of science fiction. Equally unimaginable was the idea that, in the near future, most young women would be entering Sweet Briar to prepare for graduate school and careers.

Enormous changes took place during Barbara's 32 years of administering and teaching. The computerization of the campus, "hands-on" science education, the changing role of women in the workplace—all of these advances began to emerge, develop, and converge in exciting ways.

"We held classes in Guion in the fall of 1965," remembers Barbara. "Better facilities for teaching and research enabled us to attract additional, highly-qualified faculty, which in turn drew increasing numbers of serious science students. And things kept snowballing from there. For example, in the 1980s, a combination of College support and National Science Foundation grants allowed us to acquire state-of-the-art instrumentation, opening new possi-

bilities for faculty and student research. In addition, as sophisticated instruments became computerized and easier to work with, their use became commonplace—especially in the small classes at Sweet Briar.

"Of course, at the same time, opportunities for women in the sciences and other professions were increasing. Not only were we enrolling serious science students, we were developing an excellent record of sending them on to continue their educations at the best medical and graduate schools."

Though Barbara's teaching was based in Guion, she is quick to point out that similar "snowballing" achievements took place in disciplines across the campus. "Many areas—not just the sciences—were enhanced by new facilities," says Barbara. "Renovating the old Refectory into the Pannell Gallery centered the art history department and served as an impetus to get the innovative Arts Management Program going. Building the Prothro Natatorium was a great step forward, giving Sweet Briar a chance to introduce swimming as a team sport. We'd always had great success in the Riding Program. The pool gave students another way to excel in intercollegiate competition."

A biochemist by training, Barbara's diverse research interests carried her and her students into areas ranging from recom-



El Warner and her staff work on the Sweet Briar News, 1985

binant DNA technology, to toxicology, to nuclear weapons and arms control. On the administrative side, in addition to serving as dean of the College for three years and assistant academic dean part-time for five years, she chaired the chemistry department three times and headed several of the College's major committees during her tenure.

Of all the decisions the College made to meet the needs of young women in rapidly changing times, Barbara ranks internships among the most forward-looking and practical. "The 4-1-4 calendar we instituted in the seventies," says Barbara, "allowed students to arrange internships both during the summer and the Winter Term. I think Sweet Briar was a little ahead of its time, giving students academic credit for those types of experiences. And now, even though the 4-1-4 calendar is gone, the internship program has remained an important option for students."

Like internships, student research opportunities expanded during the seventies and kept growing, "increasing a good bit every year." According to

Barbara, "In the sciences these days, research requires proper instrumentation. To be 'on the edge,' students need access to computers, instruments, and professors during the academic year and for summer research. In the 1960s and 1970s, we always had a few students who were interested in pursuing special projects. By the time I retired, science students were coming to Sweet Briar expecting to be involved in some form of new and exciting research."

Events, People, Programs Important to My Sweet Briar

Cecilia Moore '88

- The integration of SBC in the '60s and Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp '68: a very, very important part of our history
- The loss of the dairy and the cows: we really do miss the dairy cows
- The Big Bear Mountain Mission
- The Honor Code
- The Junior Year in France, Spain, and other Junior Year Abroad programs
- Winter Term
- The end of the senior comprehensive requirement when I was a freshman
- Professors Armstrong and Garner of the Religion Department: they brought in renowned religious studies scholars and theologians as speakers
- Professor Edwards and his bird-watch walks, and The Nature Sanctuary
- Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Jordan in the Library
- Mr. Fitts in the Book Shop
- Addie Martin who worked for many, many years in the dining hall: She really brightened the days for many people at SBC

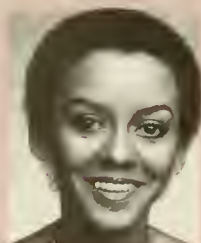
A fire in 1979 destroyed the mansion at Mt. St. Angelo which housed the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. The VCCA has since built a new facility on the property.



Sue Reid Slaughter Events 1985-86

The Festival on India, held during the month of October and sponsored by the Lectures Committee, was supported in part by a grant from the Sue Reid Slaughter Fund.

The Writers Series brings distinguished writers to campus to read from their works. This year's writers: Ellen Bryant Vaigt; Paule Marshall; Nikki Giovanni (Black History Month); Stanley Elkins; Stephen Dabyns.



Nikki Giovanni

Winter Term Film Series: eleven films were shown during January as part of the Winter Term program.

To celebrate **Black History Month**, Nikki Giovanni, writer, poet, consultant, recording artist, journalist, and lecturer came to campus February 6th to read her poetry.



Isabel Allende

The Ewald Scholars Program, "Women in Public Leadership,"

was funded in part by Sue Reid Slaughter. Speakers were: Isabel Allende, "An Evening in the House of the Spirits", Maureen Reagan, "Women and Public Leadership", and Shirley Chisholm, "Of Course, Women Dare."



Maureen Reagan

In **An Evening with Jerome Hines**, the Metropolitan Opera star, accompanied by a 28-piece orchestra, sang a repertoire of operatic arias in Lynchburg on April 15th. The Sue Reid Slaughter Fund supported this in connection with the VCCA and the Lynchburg Bicentennial events.



Shirley Chisholm

The Mimi Garrard Dance Company, which performed on campus in April, is nationally known as one of the most important and innovative dance companies in the United States. Mimi is SBC '58.



Jerome Hines

The fund helped to bring the **Angelic Choraleers**, a group of 35 singers, in May for a Saturday evening concert and special Chapel service on Sunday morning.

Robert H. Barlow,
Dean of Student Affairs



Photo by Monica Deon

Kudos Due

By Julia Sadler de Coligny '34
*Excerpted from the Spring 1986
Alumnae Magazine*

In the midst of derogatory comments and condemnations of habits and actions of college students nationally, especially in their nonclassroom life, it is a pleasure to note a very positive and special contribution being made by Sweet Briar student volunteers. SBC students in December completed the ninth semester of volunteer tutoring in the five elementary schools of Amherst County. This project is sponsored by the Church and Chapel Committee with Dean of Student Affairs Robert H. Barlow as coordinator and is open to anyone who has the desire and aptitude for helping young children gain a firmer footing in their education.

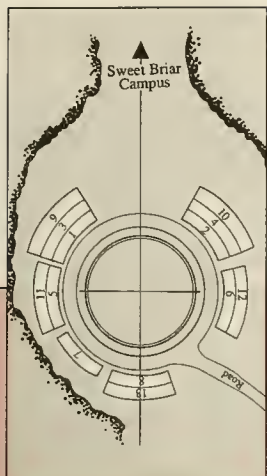
In order for the undertaking to be successful, there must be coordination of efforts between school principals, classroom teachers, and the student affairs office and, most of all, the pupils and college students themselves. This is one project from which it is difficult to know who derives the greatest benefits: the teachers are eager to cooperate, the pupils blossom with the individual attention, the tutors gain a sense of real worth and the administrators are

extremely grateful.

When the program began in September 1981 there were only eight timid but courageous volunteers. In the last four years the average number has been between 25 and 32. Schedules are worked out at the beginning of each semester (Winter Term excluded); tutors make an eight-week commitment to go to a certain school for two hours a week. Once the schedule is set, it is sacrosanct and cannot be varied; tutors must be faithful to their commitments. Most often they go in groups of six in a college van, but some work it into their schedules by using their own cars.

After choosing the school and the time, tutors check in with their principals for an orientation session. Next they meet the classroom teachers who provide a list of pupils who need help in a given area. Sometimes they work in the classroom with the whole class; other times the tutor and the individual pupil or small group of children work in chairs in the hall at the classroom door. The good news is that it is working well.

It is exciting to see these efforts of involvement in county education being skillfully maneuvered between college and school administrations and to offer kudos instead of criticism to "this college generation."



The Sweet Briar College Columbarium

By Kay Macdonald, Professor of Physical Education Emerita
with
The Reverend Susan Lehman, Chaplain, Sweet Briar College
Excerpted from the Fall 1989 Alumnae Magazine

In the spring of 1988 the Chapel Guild (Chaplain Susan Lehman, chair; Jocelyn Palmer Connors '62; Anne de Coligny Davis; Professor Aileen Laing '57; Kay Macdonald; Cornelia Perkins Zinsser '52) met in response to community interest in having a columbarium at Sweet Briar. The Guild investigated laws and cost of interment of ashes compared with burial (which was not an alternative here). The site unanimously selected was Monument Hill. At the fall meeting of the Boards of Directors and Overseers, the Guild's recommendation to establish a columbarium was approved.

Donations to a columbarium fund, particularly those in memory of Jeanette "Dan" Boone '27, enabled the Guild to engage Mr. Jack Rinehart, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the "Sweet Briar family" to design the columbarium. He had recently completed such a project for the University of Virginia Cemetery. Mr. Rinehart is the father of Brooke '88, brother-in-law of Mary Cosby Rinehart '61, and nephew of Torrance Redd Rinehart '22 and Hathaway Wright Rinehart '22.

In his plan proposal, he wrote, "With the grave site of Daisy Williams as its nucleus and focal point, a columbarium is proposed to be added at the base of the old Williams family cemetery on Monument Hill at Sweet Briar College. Radiating like sound waves or ripples from a stone thrown into a pool of water, terraces are to be placed around the old round cemetery in seven sectors. The area with the wonderful view of Sweet Briar's campus is to remain a large open, grassy space for individuals to enjoy the view or for groups to gather." In conclusion Mr. Rinehart wrote, "Though subordinate to the historic old cemetery, it actually radiates out into the academic community, creating continuity of the past with the present, thus suggesting that this whole monument might become a monument to life."

The plan called for one sector at a time to be phased in, each sector providing 48 spaces in-ground and 32 niches in the low walls that surround each terrace. New sectors will be added as sufficient reservations are received. Alumnae and present students, faculty, staff, and Board members and their immediate families (spouse, parents, children) may make use of this facility. The Chaplain, in consultation with the Chapel Guild, determines questions of eligibility.

Spaces may be reserved in advance of need by payment of the specified fee, with selection of a space within a completed sector. It is possible to have two interments in one space if desired; each space is designed to hold two urns.

It is comforting to me to look upward to the green slope of Monument Hill and to know that one day I will be enfolded in its beauty.



Photo by Tom Groves, Jr./CMS

1988 Ewald Scholars Program Featured Elie Wiesel: "Clinging to Humanity"

Elie Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement, author of 30 books, Holocaust survivor spoke to an overflow audience in Babcock Auditorium on March 17, 1988.



Mark and Ella Hanson Magruder '75 perform (and teach) at Sweet Briar



President Fry shaking hands with Gary Pannell; Clifton Ponnell in foreground.

The Dedication of the Anne Gary Pannell Center, October 4, 1985

Excerpted from the Winter 1985 issue of the Alumnae Magazine

The first weekend of October, 1985 was one of celebration. It marked the successful conclusion of the Generations Campaign which raised a total of \$15,200,000, surpassing the \$12,100,000 goal.

Close to 500 alumnae and friends were on campus for part or all of the program, which began Friday morning with guests attending classes and visiting faculty and staff, as well as places of interest on campus. The focus of the afternoon was the dedication of the Refectory as the Anne Gary Pannell Center, which houses the long-awaited art gallery and the art library, the studio art department, and faculty offices. Sara Shallenberger Brown '32 was the main speaker for the dedication.

That night, members of The Boxwood Circle, The Presidents Circle, and The Indiana Fletcher Williams Associates gathered for cocktails in the Boxwood Circle and a black-tie dinner in Prothro Dining Room.

Following a panel by students and faculty members on Saturday morning, the group set out for Charlottesville. They visited Oakencroft wineries at the invitation of Felicia and John Rogan, then proceeded to Monticello, famous home of Thomas Jefferson, for a private tour. Kitchie Roseberry Ewald Tolleson '52 and her husband, Roy, hosted a cocktail party at their home, Verulam, and the evening ended with dinner at the Boar's Head Inn.

Sunday morning the group visited Poplar Forest, a small home outside Lynchburg built by Mr. Jefferson as a summer retreat.

The weekend was declared a tremendous success by all who attended.



Before and after:
at right, the
Refectory during
construction,
below, Gallery of
the Anne Gary
Pannell Center



Photo by Nancy Blackwell Marion '74, The Design Group



**1981 installation of computers
into the Tri-College Computer
Center**



Front: Gordon and Florence Elston Beemer
Back: Elizabeth Bond Wood '34, Edith Durrell Marshall '21

Reunion Wedding Bells

By Martha Mansfield Clement '48

Excerpted from Fall 1986 Alumnae Magazine

The west parlor of Sweet Briar House was the scene on Thursday evening, May 22, 1986 of a very special occasion! Florence Woelfel Elston, Class of 1921, of Chicago, Illinois and Gordon Beemer of Crawfordsville, Indiana were united in marriage by Chaplain Susan C. Lehman.

Florence and Gordon had decided to get married but had not determined where the ceremony would take place. The ring had been purchased in Palm Beach, Florida and the groom said he was "tired of carrying it around." Once they knew they were coming to Sweet Briar for Florence's 65th Reunion, they decided to combine these two very important events.

When Gordon called to inquire about getting a wedding license, he discovered that the only requirement is \$20 if both bride and groom are from out-of-state and over 18 years of age. Gordon was intrigued. He concluded that the blood test is not required in Virginia because "they're all blue bloods."

Edith Durrell Marshall '21 arrived early for Reunion also and was one of the invited guests to the ceremony. Perhaps Edith and Betty Morris Coleman '21 were thinking during Reunion, "Wedding bells are breaking up this ole gang of mine."

Turning Point:

The Adult Education/Degree Program Begun in 1980

by Caroline Bloy

Fall 1982 Alumnae Magazine

"An unexpected phenomenon is taking place at Sweet Briar College. Springing up from behind boxwood and dogwood, armed with black notebooks and pencil boxes, dressed in the usual college fashion, is a bevy of aspiring, mature women, curious and eager to see what higher education at Sweet Briar College is all about. Most are married, most have children, most have encouraging and supportive husbands, and initially all were terrified..."

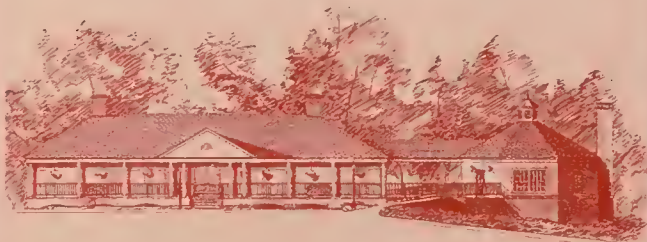


1980 NOW Convention

Dedication of the Florence Elston Inn: May 28, 1988

One of the happiest highlights of Reunion '88 occurred on Saturday afternoon with the dedication of the new Florence Elston Inn, which opened for visitors in April.

Set in a wooded area off the main drive just before the Wailes Center, the Inn with its brick façade and off-white trim is designed to be consistent with Sweet Briar's traditional architecture. In addition to the 12 bedrooms, no two of which are identical, there is a large octagonal-shaped reception room which features a fireplace with a beautiful handmade cherry mantelpiece, above which hangs a portrait of Mrs. Florence Elston Beemer. The Alumnae Association commissioned Tom and Russell Burford to make the furnishings and mantelpiece for this room. Among the pieces are a hunt board, butler's tray, coffee table, and two Hepplewhite-style end tables. The room and adjoining spacious deck which overlooks the woods behind the Inn will be used for receptions, meetings, and parties.



Into Focus

1990-1999

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Dr. Barbara Ann Hill, Sweet Briar's eighth president, was inaugurated in October 1990. The keynote speaker at the event was Dr. Mary S. Metz, president emerita of Mills College in Oakland, California. Mills had made national headlines earlier that year when students, alumnae, and friends of the women's college persuaded its board of trustees to rescind their decision to transform Mills into a coeducational institution. It was a stunning reversal. After 20 years of watching women's colleges coeducate or close, proponents of single-sex education were standing up and saying "no more."



Board Chairman Walter Brown and Barbara Hill at Kickoff Weekend for "The Campaign for Sweet Briar College," Richmond, Fall 1992

President Hill traveled from Massachusetts to California, meeting thousands of alumnae along the way. "It was always surprising," remembers Hill, "meeting generations of Sweet Briar women who had studied within the traditional liberal arts, then went on to do fascinating things—things they had no idea they were preparing to do after college.

President Metz's presence made President Hill's inauguration into a larger, collective celebration, affirming the value and relevancy of women's education at the start of the 1990s and beyond. Afterward, for the first two years of her presidency, Hill continued the celebration, carrying the good news about women's education out to Sweet Briar alumnae, college counselors, and the general public.

President Hill covered 30 cities in 24 months, traveling with then Director of Admissions Nancy Church and two consecutive directors of the Alumnae Association, Ann Reams and Louise Zingaro. The events, called FOCUS, consisted of meetings with alumnae groups (often including current and prospective students in the area), breakfasts with high school representatives, and speaking engagements ranging from rotary clubs to radio talk shows.

"The FOCUS 'road show' had a good, strong message," says Hill, "that women's education was alive, and well, and worth supporting. I spoke about the reasons why I came to Sweet Briar: a distinguished faculty from the best institutions who selected the College because they wanted to make teaching a priority; a variety of students who wanted superior research, leadership, and travel

opportunities; and a strong tradition of alumnae interest and support.

"A specific feature of the College that impressed me at the time was the Honors Program. Before I arrived, I had just finished researching a piece on honors programs for a major journal, and I realized how intelligently Sweet Briar's program was structured. In addition, the sciences were being strengthened in sound and creative ways. It was exciting to carry the campus, with all its great traditions and innovations, out into the world for other people to see. We weren't celebrating the past, but an ongoing mission. We were celebrating continuity."

President Hill traveled from Massachusetts to California, meeting thousands of alumnae along the way. "It was always surprising," remembers Hill, "meeting generations of Sweet Briar women who had studied within the traditional liberal arts, then went on to do fascinating things—things they had no idea they were preparing to do after college.

"The late Ann Upchurch '48 was a good example. She was a religion major who became a successful rancher. One afternoon, after bouncing across the fields in an old station wagon, she invited me back to her lovely home in Birmingham. There, while touring me through the

house, Ann opened the door to what I assumed was a large closet. It turned out to be a computer room, where she had been busy creating a database to track the bloodlines of all of the cattle in her herd. I believe she was in her sixties at that point, and there she was, mastering this powerful new tool.

"Ann understood that her ability was something Sweet Briar gave her, not in terms of the specific knowledge needed to use a computer, but in terms of the broader skill set and attitude required to take on new challenges. She had a great sense of her own power, of her ability to accomplish things. And that's what FOCUS was all about."



Deedie Barricks

Deedie Kirkendall Borricks '25, class secretary, acknowledges applause at 1990 Reunion Convocation

The Class of 1925 was well represented for its 65th Reunion by Deedie Kirkendall Borricks who, upon being applauded by the Reunion Convocation audience, drew a second round of delighted applause by observing: "I finally understand the hereafter; it's when I find myself somewhere and think, 'I'm in this room but I don't know what I'm here after!'"

The 1993 Ewald Scholars Program: "American Indian Visions"

The 1993 Ewald Scholars Program was one of the most successful ever, drawing more than 1,000 people to Sweet Briar for three days in April. The participants themselves praised the gathering of such a large group of notable leaders in one place. Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and the program's keynote speaker, emphasized this point: "For months I've been looking forward to this. It's one of the highlights of my spring."

The program's timeliness reflects the Ewald Committee's recognition that 1993, designated as the United Nations' Year



Members of the Great American Dancers at Sweet Briar, as they appeared on the Summer 1993 cover of the *Alumnae Magazine*.

of the Indigenous People, is intended to encourage worldwide recognition of native peoples, who have been subjected to war, famine, environmental destruction, and genocide. In the Americas, the American Indians have survived 500 years of European domination, which has drastically affected their ways of life.

The American Indian voice, in literature and the arts, in political life and contemporary society, will play an important and vital role in shaping American society in the next century. "American Indian Visions" explored the means by which American Indian leaders and their people can preserve, foster, and promote their cultural heritage, while addressing the social and political realities of con-

temporary Indian life.

Through art, dance and musical performances—vital components of contemporary American Indian culture—and in panel discussions and lectures, participants addressed critical issues facing American Indians today, including environmental destruction, land return and treaty rights, cultural property, and tribal sovereignty.

The Great American Indian Dancers opened the program with a stunning performance to a standing-room-only crowd in Babcock Auditorium. The dancers weave dances and songs with humorous stories to reflect a wide range of American Indian traditions from the southwest to the Great Lakes woodlands, from the Rocky Mountains to southeast Alaska. While at

Sweet Briar, the company gave a special performance for area schoolchildren.

In her keynote speech, Wilma Mankiller told of facing prejudice in her lifetime—more of it as a woman in a position of power than as a Native American. She recalled that one young man she met at an unnamed eastern college remarked that since "chief" is a male title, he perhaps should address her as "chiefess" or "chiefette." Later, the same man asked how she got her name, Mankiller. She replied that it is a nickname and she'd earned it.

She spoke of her mission of rebuilding the Cherokee Nation. Long before the invasion of America by European colonists, the Cherokees had a government, school system, even a constitution. "Our people need to understand our history and who they are before they can pick up the pieces and rebuild," she said. Wilma Mankiller wants her people to become self-sufficient again.



Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation

Other 1993 Ewald Scholars speakers, artists, and performers:

N. Scott Momaday, nationally recognized poet, prose writer, and painter whose works reflect his Kiowa heritage. Author of the Pulitzer prize-winning novel *House Made of Dawn*, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, *The Names: A Memoir*, *The Gourd Dancer*, *Angle of Geese and Other Poems*, and *The Ancient Child*.

Leslie Silko of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe, New Mexico. Acclaimed author of *Laguna Woman*, *Ceremony*, *Storyteller*, and *Almanac of the Dead*. Her many awards include a Pushcart Prize, a MacArthur Foundation fellowship, and a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Writer's Award.

Charlotte Black Elk, an Oglala Lakota Sioux, lives on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Secretary of the Black Hills Steering Committee, which is involved in a lobby for land return. Molecular biologist, participates in many environmental and political activities.

Martin Brokenleg, Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Chair, Sociology Department, Augustana College. Teaches Native American studies and cross-cultural communications. Was director of a Neighborhood Youth Corps, and a counselor in alcohol treatment programs. A graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has served as chaplain in a correctional setting. Consultant to educational and treatment programs for Indian children; author of several books, including co-authoring *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future* (1990) with Larry K. Brendtro and Steve Van Bockern.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Flathead Tribe, Montana; now lives in New Mexico. Activist, environmentalist. Artist whose art draws from other Native American painters who, she says, seem to have a unique way of looking at the landscape. Art degrees from the University of New Mexico and Framingham State College; lectures at institutions across the country and abroad.

Phyllis Hicks, Tribal Representative for the Monacan Tribe of Virginia, Inc. Official speaker for the tribe. Treasurer, lay reader, vestry member for St. Paul's Mission, Amherst, Virginia.

Raymond Adams, Chief Emeritus, Upper Mattaponi Tribe of King William, Virginia. Chairman, United Indians of Virginia.

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation. Spokesman for the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. Teaches in American Studies Program, State University of New York, Buffalo. Writes and illustrates children's books, and books about the environment. Represented the Onondaga Nation as an "unaligned nation" in Geneva, Switzerland.

Roger Anyon, Director of the Zuni Archaeology Program, New Mexico. Responsible since 1985 for administering approximately \$4.8 million in grants and contracts for the Zuni Tribe.

Kevin Locke, Lakota Sioux of Standing Rock Reservation, South Dakota. Renowned artist, educator, flutist, and hoop dancer. One of only 13 Americans awarded a National Heritage Fellowship. Has mastered two Lakota language dialects. Service to the goal of unifying humanity through an appreciation of diversity.

Sweet Briar Establishes First Women's College Chapter Of Pre-Law Fraternity

Sweet Briar is the first women's college in the country to establish a pre-law chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Nineteen students were inducted on February 8th, 1995.

Founded in 1902, Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) is the world's largest legal fraternity. Its goals are to advance ideals of liberty and equal justice under the law; to inspire the virtues of compassion and courage among attorneys; and to foster integrity and professional competence among its members.

Membership is composed of law student members, pre-law members, practicing attorneys, legal educators, leading jurists, and prominent elected officials. Nearly one in every six attorneys in the United States is a member of PAD. The organization is unique in that it accepts undergraduate pre-law students into its ranks.

Faculty sponsors: Dr. Barbara Perry and Dr. Stephen Bragaw, SBC Department of Government.

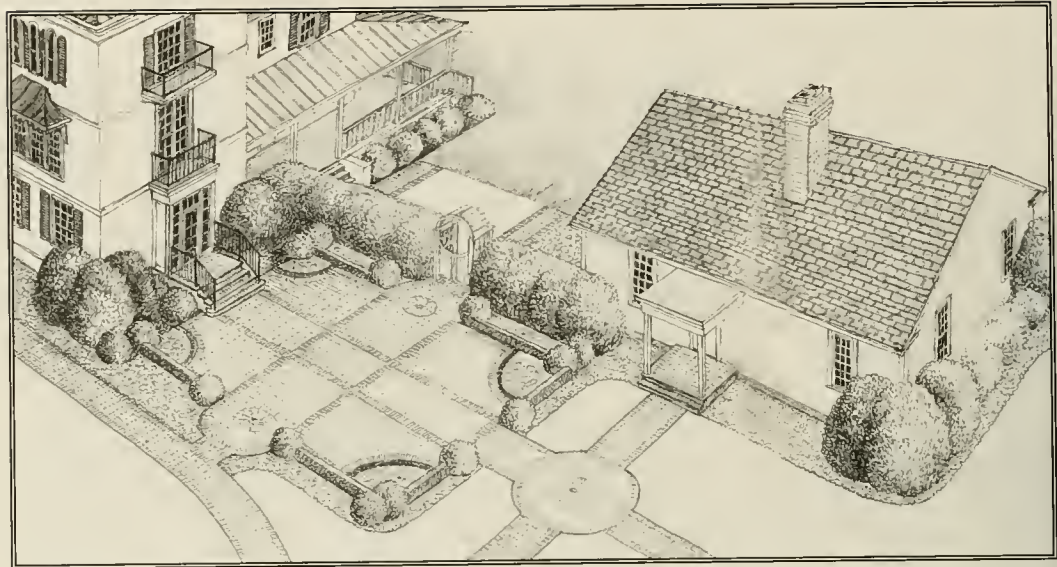
Alice Walker's Ewald Visit to Campus

Her fans were here to greet Pulitzer Prize-winning author (*The Color Purple*) Alice Walker on March 22, 1996. College officials believe that the almost 1,000 people who turned out for her program may have been a record crowd for a single scholarly event at Sweet Briar. Walker was the lecturer in the 1996 Ewald Scholars Program.

Photo by Charles Grubbs



Alice Walker talks with students at an informal question and answer session in the Pannell Art Gallery



Mary Law Taylor Boxwood Terrace Garden Illustration by landscape architect Mark Brimjoin

**GALA CELEBRATION
OF THE SUCCESS OF THE
\$35 MILLION
CAMPAIGN FOR
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE,
SEPTEMBER 16-18,
1994**

When the Campaign books were closed on June 30, Campaign Chairman Alice Cary Farmer Brown '59 jubilantly announced that Campaign efforts had produced an overwhelming success, with the final figures totaling \$38.5 million, exceeding the goal by \$3.5 million. It was time to celebrate!

The Campaign's success was applauded "at home" on campus, where everyone could see firsthand many Campaign gifts at work, as well as take part in two dedications made possible through Campaign gifts. The College invited guests to relax in the mid-September ambience of "A Weekend in the Country." And so, Sweet Briar family members gathered together to enjoy a memorable, one-of-a-kind experience.

The weekend festivities were officially opened with Friday afternoon's dedication of the Heuer Auditorium in the Guion Science Center, endowed by Charlotte Heuer de Serio '57, in memory of her parents.

As well as providing an opportunity to view Campaign-enhanced facilities, the weekend included tours and entertainment at nearby sites of historical sig-

nificance.

Saturday morning was devoted to "Alumnae College" sessions led by Sweet Briar faculty members. Dr. Aileen Laing '57, professor of art history, delivered a slide presentation and lecture on Sweet Briar's architecture to a large, appreciative audience. The second Alumnae College presentation featured two professors from the English and Creative Writing Department, who read from their works. Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Mary Oliver read from her collections of poetry, and John Gregory Brown, the first professor to hold the Julia Jackson Nichols Chair in English and Creative Writing, read from his widely acclaimed first novel, *Decorations in a Ruined Cemetery*.

The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday night black-tie Grand Finale Campaign Celebration Dinner, held in the College's main dining room, which had been transformed into a French country village, its focal point a "village square"—a tent frame strung with multicolored lights. Cocktails were served in an auxiliary dining room, a perfect setting with its

lovely French doors and windows. An area normally used for the food service line was changed into a gallery display of 25 original oil paintings of the French countryside by alumna artist Jill Steenhuis Ruffato '80, who lives and paints in Provence. The most unequivocal success of the celebration was the gourmet feast prepared by Max Suhner, Executive Chef of the United Nations.

Following Sunday's special chapel service of thanksgiving, everyone gathered for the dedication of the Mary Law Taylor ('43) Boxwood Terrace Garden, the gift of Stuart S. Taylor in memory of his wife, a Master Gardener. A new door in the east parlor of Sweet Briar House leads immediately onto the beautiful garden, which is adjacent to Daisy's Garden. As part of Stuart Taylor's gift, Daisy's Garden was restored, lending additional meaning to a very touching dedication ceremony.

The celebration was truly a family affair, with every component of the Sweet Briar family—students, faculty, staff, alumnae, trustees, and friends—taking part: a thrilling occasion and a fitting conclusion to Sweet Briar's successful Campaign.



Dynamic Trio, l-r: Sandra Taylor '74, keynote speaker; Charna Manning '90, Unity Club president; Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, first recipient of the Black Sweet Briar Woman of the Year Award.

First Annual Conference/Reunion of Dynamic Black Sweet Briar Women

Excerpted from the Fall 1990 issue of the Alumnae Magazine

The Sweet Briar College Unity Club, under the leadership of President Charna Manning '90, sponsored the first two-day Conference of Dynamic Black Sweet Briar Women on Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25, 1990, in conjunction with Black History Month. Twenty alumnae from across the country, representing the classes of 1968-1989, returned to campus for the event. Highlights of the program included the Saturday welcome and luncheon, an afternoon panel discussion (panelists were Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp '68, Julia Carter '89, Sandra Taylor '74, Paula Lee '89, Patricia Pauling '86, Cee Cee Smith '77, Lisa Redd-Toliver '86), and Saturday evening's semiformal dinner banquet in the Boxwood Room of the Wailes Center. A Sunday morning worship service in the Chapel was followed by a luncheon at the home of SBC's Chaplain Susan Lehman. The Sunday service featured the choir from The First Baptist Church in Lynchburg, a solo

by Marsha Taylor-Delain '76 and closing prayer by Cecilia Moore '88. The offering was donated to the United Negro College Fund.

Saturday evening's dinner banquet, at which Sandra Taylor was keynote speaker, concluded with the presentation of the first Black Sweet Briar Woman of the Year Award. The recipient was Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, medical epidemiologist, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Congratulations to our first Black Sweet Briar Woman of the Year!

The Unity Club is a student organization which promotes interracial and intercollegiate social, cultural, and educational programs. It is a founding member of the Black Students Alliance of Central Virginia (BSACVA), sponsoring numerous campus events throughout the academic year.

The Presidential Speakers Series 1993-1994

The Sweet Briar College Presidential Speakers Series, inaugurated during the 1993 spring semester, represented an exciting addition to the intellectual life of the campus, challenging students and faculty alike to reflect on the vital roles being played by women. The series grew out of President Barbara Hill's interest in providing a forum for the Sweet Briar community, especially the students, to explore the many challenges and opportunities available to women today.

The distinguished speakers who came to campus during the series were:

Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of Central Virginia Community College;

The Honorable Dale Hutter Harris '53, chief judge, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, 24th District;

Patricia Smith Ticer '55, Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia;

Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation; Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), and Ann Richards, Governor of Texas.

All had made notable contributions to the public life of their communities. They represented a range of prominence, from those well-known locally, to those known statewide, and in the case of Congresswoman Schroeder and Governor Richards, nationally and internationally known figures. Each speaker told her own story of being drawn to public life, described the challenges and rewards of such a life, and addressed those issues closest to her heart.



President Hill with Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Mayor Pat Smith Ticer '55 and Judge Dale Hutter Harris '53

Straight from the Grapevine...

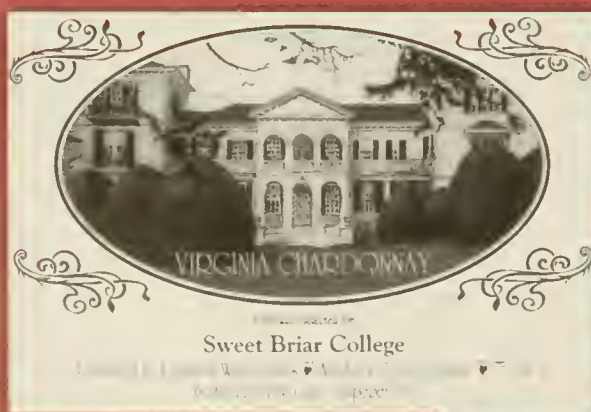
Excerpted from "In the Spotlight" section, Spring 1990 issue of the Alumnae Magazine

Thanks to Archie Waldron, SBC's director of food services [now director of auxiliary services], Sweet Briar now has its own house wine, which will be served at College functions and may be bought at the Bistro by those over 21. Made from Virginia-grown grapes and bottled in Virginia, the wine comes in three varieties: a red table wine, a white table wine and a Chardonnay, all bearing distinctive pink and green Sweet Briar labels.

Archie "thought a house wine would add a touch of elegance and be a conversation piece at Sweet Briar functions." He took his idea to the senior staff, which enthusiastically held an informal wine tasting at Sweet Briar House in January '89. The group pronounced one wine in each category superior; plans for making the wine available under Sweet Briar's private label were begun.

Catherine Bost, assistant director of public relations [now director of publications, public relations office], designed the labels, which feature a stylized Sweet Briar Rose for the table wines and Sweet Briar House for the Chardonnay.

The wine is produced in Culpepper by Dominion Wine Cellars, a winery established by a cooperative of 15 Virginia grape growers. "The white table wine has a tad of sweetness to it," according to Dominion's representative, Carl Hilscher. "It's a medium-bodied wine with a citrus-fruity taste, and is made predominantly from Chardonnay grapes. The Chardonnay is pure Chardonnay grapes—dry, lighter, and fruitier than the white table wine. The red table variety is medium-bodied with a complex arrangement of flavors, dry with a bouquet of cassis fruit and cherries, with cinnamon in the background."



SBC Wine Label

White Oak Woods

A World-class Ecology Laboratory

By Ernest P. Edwards
Dorys McConnell Duberg
Professor of Ecology Emeritus
Excerpted from the Summer 1992 issue of the Alumnae Magazine

"This is the best White Oak community seen in the Piedmont," according to distinguished University of North Carolina botany professor A. E. Radford, who has studied hundreds of the outstanding natural areas from Maryland through South Carolina. (Recall that the Piedmont Region is a broad belt of land extending from Maine to Georgia between the Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountain chain.)

Michael Godfrey, author of *A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the Piedmont*, concurs, writing (p. 379), "It is said to be the best-developed tract of its kind in the Piedmont." Equally enthusiastic is *The Audubon Society Guide to the Natural Places of the Mid-Atlantic States: Inland* (pp. 137-139), selecting it as one of the 122 outstanding natural sites from New York state to Virginia. Only three other college- or university-related natural areas are selected for inclusion, those of Rutgers, Princeton, and the University of Virginia—and only Sweet Briar's natural area joins the main campus.

These superlatives apply to (1) the Carry Nature Sanctuary

Old-Growth Forest (on the right-hand side and part of the left-hand side of the entrance road as you go toward Highway 29) and (2) the Constitution Oaks (on the left side of Old Stable Road as you go toward the Farmhouse and the old stables). A smaller tract, the Boone-Prior Nature Sanctuary, behind Guion Science Building, is also a fine example of old-growth White Oak forest, though not contiguous to the other tracts. This area is said to have been the woodlot for firewood for Sweet Briar House, and includes two springs which were undoubtedly used as a domestic water supply many years ago.

Scattered large White Oaks have persisted outside of old-growth forest at Sweet Briar, among them the Westchester Oak in second-growth woods near the Green Barn; this is Sweet Briar's largest and oldest White Oak, nearly 15 feet in circumference and more than 125 feet tall, probably 500 years old or more, and in good health.

But it is the *intact* old-growth forest, in the three areas mentioned above, with its rich combination of large and small trees, shrubs, spring wildflowers, insects, birds, and mammals, which puts Sweet Briar in a class virtually by itself in regard to facilities for the study of ecology.

Fortunately, for some reason these unique educational facili-



Ernest P. Edwards

ties were not destroyed when so much of the land was cleared for farming in the late 1600s to early 1800s, long before the founding of a college was contemplated. Perhaps in the earlier years some parts of the forest were too steep or rocky. Later, in the mid-to-late 1800s, they may have been preserved because of their proximity to the plantation house and other principal dwellings, to be used for very selective cutting of firewood for heating and cooking. Perhaps a major objective was protection of the watershed of springs which arose in these forests, providing sources of water for the plantation. Still later, in the very early 1900s, the early years of the College, informal protection was continued, possibly partly because spring water and firewood were still used in many of the homes on campus, and partly because there was no need for additional farmland.

Then in 1936 the College's third president, Meta Glass, set the stage for more formal protection of some of these forests by arranging for the establishment of the Charles William Carry Nature Sanctuary, with financial support from the parents of Margaret Carry Durland '35, as a memorial to their son.

Nature sanctuaries of any kind were largely unknown at that time, especially on college

campuses, and the concept of the Carry Nature Sanctuary was even farther ahead of its time in that it was designated not only to establish a specific portion of the campus woodlands as a nature sanctuary, but also to encourage good conservation practices in all of the College's operations, from classroom to dormitory to farm to forest management. (Much later the United Nations applied this same concept on a much larger scale when it established Biosphere Reserves, such as the Virginia Coast Reserve, which incorporates not only sanctuaries, but also working farms, private homes, and public beaches as well.)

Soon after the Carry Nature Sanctuary was established, a specific area on the slopes of Monument Hill was temporarily designated as a nature preserve, but after a number of years of evaluation of various sites, the old-growth forest along the south side of the entrance road was designated in 1958 (by then President Anne Gary Pannell) as the first *permanent* nature preserve of the Carry Nature Sanctuary. It soon became famous, along with some nearby unprotected forest, as the Sweet Briar College White Oaks Woods. Laboratory exercises and student research projects gradually resulted in a wealth of knowledge about life in a natural old-growth forest.



Alice Cary Farmer Brown and Walter Brown at Richmond Campaign Kickoff Weekend

When I Think About Sweet Briar...

by Walter Brown H '49

When I think about Sweet Briar, I dwell primarily on my time as chairman of the Board, fellow members, and my relationship with the presidents of the College.

Both Nenah Fry and Barbara Hill were articulate managers and accomplished what they were asked to do. One always has regrets: I am sorry not to have served with Harold Whiteman and Betsy Muhlenfeld, one long tenured and the other with a great opportunity for longevity in the position.

There were many great moments to treasure; two stand out. I will never forget the marvelous party in the Richmond Art Museum when we honored the indefatigable Alice Cary Farmer Brown '59, chair of The Campaign for Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar's largest capital campaign up to that time. She was always on top of events with great charm and delightful good spirits. The other party was given me on my retirement from the Board. I felt a wonderful outpouring of affection and friendship from so many members of the faculty, staff, and the Board of Directors.

I developed fine relationships with earlier chairmen, Charles Prothro, Wilson

Newman, Bruce Bredin, Victor Henningsen and Wrede Petersmeyer, all of whom were very helpful with their sage advice.

The choice of Sara Lycett to take over for me and to be the first female chairman was highly gratifying. She has done a magnificent job in bringing us into the new millennium.

We had a lot of tough decisions to make as a Board, but I will only mention one. It was at a time when the College was suffering from a decline in admissions, as were most all women's colleges. Happily, Sweet Briar had a relatively strong financial position, which allowed us to increase our admissions standards rather than lowering them, on the theory that bright students attract other bright students.

One of my greatest regrets was the need to sell Sweet Briar's beautiful herd of dairy cows. My partner in crime was the great Tom Connors, a former vice president and treasurer. I don't know about him, but this was the only time I got hate mail and irate telephone calls. We also got into hot water when we went through the process of trimming the boxwood around Daisy's monument!



Jack Matlock January 8, 1992

Jack Matlock at Sweet Briar
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock was the kickoff speaker for SBC's 1992 Winter Forums. His address, "Break-up and Reunification in the Soviet Union," drew a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 700.

Jessica Lang talks with students during her January 1994 visit to campus



Photo by Larry Peters



Ieke Osinga '78 at the dairy where she operated a yaghurt business in the 1980s

Sweet Briar Dairy Closes

Date: Summer 1994
To: The Sweet Briar Family
From: Barbara A. Hill,
President, Sweet Briar College

During its spring meetings April 21-23, Sweet Briar's Board of Directors voted to allow our college farm to phase out its dairy operations.

This action comes as a result of a yearlong study of the dairy, initiated in March 1993 by our farm manager, Kyle Leonard. Mr. Leonard, a graduate of the Dairy Management Program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, raised concerns about new environmental directives that would ultimately affect Sweet Briar's dairy, primarily because of its physical location in a small valley above a stream.

After seeking advice from the State Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and a team of experts from the Dairy Management Program at Virginia Tech, and hearing their recommendations,

our Board of Directors considered the possibility of renovating the dairy or relocating it to another part of Sweet Briar's 3,300 acre campus, but the expense of either of those options would be prohibitive.

As environmental regulations become more and more strict, the expense of compliance has resulted in dairy farmers across the country making similar decisions. In fact, Sweet Briar's dairy is the only one still in operation in Amherst and Nelson counties. A State Extension Service meeting last month in Harrisonburg drew more than 200 concerned dairy farmers from across the state to discuss these issues.

Historically, dairies were located near streams as a way to make use of the water for cooling the milk, cleaning the milking parlor, and for water for the cows. In recent years, environmental agencies have focused on dairies' locations as an environmental concern.

The Blizzard of '96

By Ann Marshall Whitley '47

Excerpted from Spring 1996 Alumnae Magazine

It did not come in like fog on little cat feet on January 6. It came like long dark snakes sneaking through an azure blue sky from the west, pulling behind an immense gray cloud that in minutes blotted out the sun. Then minute flakes of snow glued themselves to everything in their path. There was no evidence of wind; the world was just suddenly dark and ominously silent. The snow fell hour after hour, becoming a thick, even blanket covering the tans and browns of winter.

Most of us were prepared for an eight-to-ten-inch snowfall by the media forecasters, but when day faded into night the snow continued piling, building, sculpting, obscuring everything in an unrecognizable landscape from some dream world.

By morning January 7, my van had disappeared into a marvel of line and curve like a long elegant igloo. There was no question of digging out to go anywhere, as the snow continued to drift down for several days. The newscasters called the storm a disaster of major proportions for the East Coast and also the great storm of our century. It took three days for a snowplow to find my road and then it only managed to plow one lane. Nothing moved. We had over two feet of snow.

Sweet Briar was closed. This is a very rare occurrence, but the ground crews had tons of snow to clear before anyone could enter or leave campus. The students had a full week of holiday—a time to remember!



The blizzard on campus

Sara Finnegan Lycett '61: Chairman-Elect of Sweet Briar's Board of Directors

Excerpted from "In the Spotlight," Winter '95 Alumnae Magazine



Sara Finnegan Lycett was named chairman-elect of the Sweet Briar Board of Directors, effective immediately, on November 19, 1994. She will be the first woman to head the Board, assuming the chairmanship July 1, 1995.

Sara received her B.A. in English from Sweet Briar in 1961, and a Master of Liberal Arts in History from Johns

Hopkins University in 1965. She also attended the Executive Program of the Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia in 1977.

Her career has been in medical publishing, most recently as president of the Professional and Reference Group at Williams and Wilkins Company in Baltimore, MD. She assumed the presidency in 1988, after serving seven years as president of the Book Division of the company. According to the company's press release at the time of her promotion, "Throughout this period, she has been actively involved in lecturing at various publishing and medical societies, and has been responsible for the publication of many medical books which have become classics in their respective fields." Associated with Williams and Wilkins from 1965 until her retirement in the summer of 1994, she is the author of numerous publications, and has presented papers both in the United States and abroad.

She has served as director and secretary of the Passano Foundation, an international society which awards research grants each year to outstanding medical researchers. Her hobbies include service as a docent at The Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore.

Elected to the Board in 1987, she has served as chairman of the Marketing Committee, Presidential Performance Committee, and Investments, Finance and Audit Committee, and as a member of the Development Committee and Executive Committee. During the Campaign for Sweet Briar College, she was a member of the Science Initiative Committee.

Sweet Briar in the News 1994-1995

Reprinted from the Winter 1995 Alumnae Magazine

U.S. News & World Report

In its annual America's Best Colleges issue, dated September 25, 1994, the newsweekly magazine once again lists Sweet Briar as the top-ranked women's college in Virginia in the "national liberal arts college" category. This category includes institutions that draw their students from a national pool, are highly selective in admissions, emphasize and award more than 40 percent of their degrees in the liberal arts, and provide superior academic experiences for the academically ambitious student.

Sweet Briar is listed in "Tier Two," those schools ranked between 41st and 80th of the 164 colleges in this category. The only Virginia school ranked higher than Sweet Briar is Washington & Lee. Hampden-Sydney, Hollins, Randolph-Macon Woman's College and VMI are in "Tier Three."

U.S. News measures student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, graduation rate, alumni satisfaction, and a college's reputation among other colleges' administrators to calculate its rank.

MONEY Magazine's Guide: The Best College Buys Now

Sweet Briar College is one of *Money* magazine's 100 "best college buys in the nation," based on educational quality in relation to cost. SBC is 31st on

Money's list, released September 6, 1994. Of the 10 women's colleges on *Money*'s list, SBC is second. Of *Money*'s 20 best values among small liberal arts colleges, Sweet Briar is ninth. In the Mid-Atlantic region, *Money* ranks Sweet Briar sixth. Among Virginia colleges, only Washington & Lee is ranked above Sweet Briar.

To rank America's 100 best colleges, *Money* analyzed 16 measures of educational quality, including entrance exam results, faculty resources and deployment, library resources, instructional and student services budgets, four- as well as five- or six-year graduation rates, and default ratios on graduates' student loans. Then the magazine compared those data with each college's tuition and fees to arrive at a value rating.

The Fiske Guide to Colleges

Sweet Briar receives three stars for its academics and four stars for its quality of life in the 1994 edition of *The Fiske Guide*. The guidebook says that Sweet Briar "is committed to a quality liberal arts education" and that "Sweet Briar has found a way to pursue the goals of the 1990s career woman without shedding the trappings of traditional women's education." It quotes students as saying:

"I have had the opportunity to live and grow in an environment where I am more than a

number, and where I matter as a woman."

"You work because professors are friends who really believe in you, and you don't want to disappoint them."

Peterson's Competitive Guide to the Colleges

Sweet Briar is profiled as one of the nation's best 300 colleges in the 1995 edition of *Peterson's Competitive Guide to the Colleges*.

"We do not approach the identification of [these 300] colleges through sets of external characteristics, as we do not believe that the inherent definition of quality lies in endowments or faculty/student ratios," the guidebook editors explain. "Rather, we believe that the selection of the group we consider competitive should be based on the quality of the student body, with data about class size, majors, and endowments affixed to the identified colleges for contrast and comparison."

The Student Access Guide to the Best 306 Colleges

For the third year in a row, students ranked Sweet Briar College among the best of 306 top colleges in the country, according to a survey of 48,000 students nationwide for the 1995 edition of *The Student Access Guide to the Best 306 Colleges*, released in September, 1994.

Students rated Sweet Briar among the top 20 colleges in

each of the following categories:

Academics: "Professors Bring Material to Life" (third); "Professors Make Themselves accessible" (fourth)

Quality of Life: "Great Food" (first); "Dorms Like Palaces" (first); "The Best Quality of Life" (fifth); "Beautiful Campus" (sixth); "Happy Students" (sixth).

Administration: "Students Happy with Financial Aid" (fourth); "Things Run Smoothly" (sixth).

Sweet Briar students also are quoted as saying:

"The women here are serious about their studies and their future careers."

"Professors take both a professional and a personal interest in the students and concentrate on their teaching."

"At Sweet Briar, a student's opportunities are endless, ranging from one-on-one attention she receives from professors, to the small classes, to going abroad to study for a semester or year, to doing an internship in your field of study."

"The dining hall has first-class five-star chefs."

"The International 50"

Sweet Briar remains one of the "International 50," which refers to an elite group of private colleges noted for overall contributions to international affairs, the quality of international programs, and the number of students who attain advanced

degrees in international studies or a foreign language.

Parade Magazine

News of *The Student Access Guide to the Best 306 Colleges* rankings was picked up by the Sunday, September 18, 1994 *Parade Magazine* in *Parade's* special "Intelligence Report" section.

The Yale Insider's Guide

The *Yale Insider's Guide* notes that Sweet Briar provides students "opportunities for leadership, for exploration, and for learning about themselves as women."

Barron's Best Buys in College Education

The fall 1994 edition of *Barron's Best Buys in College Education* lists Sweet Briar among the 299 colleges that "provide the best education for the tuition charged."

News about Sweet Briar's latest wave of high rankings has resulted in print and broadcast articles in mass media outlets nationwide, and through The Associated Press Newswire to radio and television stations statewide. Other positive stories about Sweet Briar featured in the news include:

President Barbara Hill was featured in a 30-minute interview with *Voice of America* radio, heard by 44 million people around the world.

Dean of Academic Advising Cynthia Patterson was interviewed about the late Jacqueline Onassis by a reporter from The Knight-Ridder Newswire, which resulted in stories in the *Detroit Free Press*, the *St. Petersburg [FL] Times*, the *Orange County [CA] Register*, and a live interview with KOA radio in Denver.

Professor John Gouldie was quoted in a page one story about North Korea in the *Christian Science Monitor* and was interviewed live on The Associated Press Radio Network.

Professor Mike Richards' op-ed pieces about elections in Mexico ran in the *Houston Chronicle* and in the national *Journal of Commerce*, and he was interviewed live on KOA radio in Denver and WOIA radio in San Antonio.

Maurine Harrison, director of the Sweet Briar College Campus Lab School, wrote an article about back-to-school tips for parents that ran on The Associated Press Newswire, resulting in stories in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and 143 other newspapers nationwide.

Sweet Briar's 1994 Commencement address by Callie Khouri was featured on the *NBC Nightly News* with Tom Brokaw.

The October 1994 issue of *Glamour* magazine quoted first-year student Caroline Sinkinson of Akron, OH on why she chose to attend a women's college: "I knew that at a women's college, I'd be more apt to play sports. Sweet Briar has more sports for women, like lacrosse and field hockey, than my high school had. The majority of my friends who go to coed colleges don't play sports. It's almost a stigma for women."

Reviews in dozens of newspapers nationwide, including *The New York Times Book Review* and the *Washington Post*, of English and Creative Writing Professor John Gregory Brown's first novel have praised and celebrated his work. These reviews follow on the heels of similar extensive publicity over the last two years about the work of English and Creative Writing Professor Mary Oliver, whose poetry has won both a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.



Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld: Ninth President of Sweet Briar College

Photo by David Abrams



Sweet Briar welcomed Dr. Elisabeth Showalter Muhlenfeld as its ninth president in August 1996. Previously, President Muhlenfeld was dean of undergraduate studies at The Florida State University in Tallahassee.

She had served Florida State since 1978, as assistant, associate, and full professor of English; as director of graduate and undergraduate studies, associate chairman of the Department of English, and

chairman of the FSU Faculty Senate's Undergraduate Policy Council. As founding dean of undergraduate studies in 1984, she became responsible for all university-wide academic requirements, including the Liberal Studies Program, the academic progress of 8,000 lower-division students, academic advising, the University Honors Program, minority academic programs, academic support services for student athletes, the Center for Retention and Academic Support, and the offices of admissions, registrar, and financial aid. Throughout her administrative service, Dr. Muhlenfeld continued to teach one or more courses each year in American literature and Southern literature, to direct honors and master theses and doctoral dissertations, and to serve on graduate committees.

She received a B.A. in Philosophy from Goucher College in 1966 and her master's in English from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1973. Concentrating on Southern literature for her doctoral studies, she received a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina in 1978.

She is the author of four books, including a biography of Mary Boykin Chesnut, a work on Chesnut's novels, and an edition of Chesnut's original diaries, co-edited with historian



Sara Finnegan Lycett '61 bestows Presidential Medal at President Muhlenfeld's Inauguration.

C. Vann Woodward. *Mary Boykin Chesnut: A Biography* was nominated for various prizes, among them the Pulitzer, and was selected by *Choice* magazine as an "outstanding academic book." In Fall 1992 the biography was reprinted in paperback, the first of several reprintings. Dr. Muhlenfeld also edited a critical work on William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*

An active member of the Modern Language Association, the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, the American Literature Association, and the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, she is a fellow of the St. George Tucker Society, and has served as secretary/treasurer of the William Faulkner Society, as president of the FSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, as member of the Commission on Non-Professional Legal Studies of the American Bar Association, and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the Hardee Center for Women in Higher Education.

Excellence in Teaching

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Excerpted from Winter 1999 Alumnae Magazine

In May 1998, after two and a half years of intense research and debate, the Sweet Briar faculty passed an all-encompassing General Education Program. This new program—the first major overhaul of the curriculum in several decades—envisioned a Sweet Briar education as a seamless process, beginning with Orientation and continuing through the senior year. All students will complete a set of requirements that will:

- ensure the development of strong communication and quantitative reasoning skills,
- help students clarify the rationale for a strong liberal arts background,
- provide a pattern for the acquisition of knowledge both in terms of breadth (understanding broad areas of knowledge) and depth (the completion of a major),
- engage in purposeful experiences that will enhance their formal learning,
- encourage students to routinely assess their progress, review their decisions, and align their undergraduate preparation with future academic, career, and life goals.

If the points listed above look familiar, it is because Sweet Briar's mission to provide the best possible liberal arts education for young women has not changed. What is new is the way these objec-

tives are expressed and implemented across the curriculum.

Starting this year, faculty throughout the disciplines are emphasizing writing, oral communication, and quantitative reasoning skills at every level. The Class of 2002 and every class to follow will be required to take skill-intensive courses, not only as first-year students, but on into their majors.

Dr. Alix Ingber, associate dean of academic affairs and professor of Spanish, describes the new skills initiative as being "more intentional." While communication and analytical skills have always been important components of a Sweet Briar education, a consistent approach was not guaranteed under the old requirements.

Self-Assessment

In the swirl of college life, it is easy—sometimes necessary—to focus exclusively on the tasks at hand. Papers, exams, presentations, labs, meetings, lectures, and special events leave little time to reflect on accomplishments or to contemplate long-term goals. This is why Sweet Briar's new General Education Program includes a self-assessment component for students. It's not just a good idea to think about your personal development; it's required.

During Orientation, freshmen write the first of three

essays outlining their interests, proficiencies, and educational objectives. They write a similar essay in the middle of their sophomore year as part of selecting their majors. A third and final essay asks seniors to evaluate their Sweet Briar experience in light of their postgraduate goals. These confidential, upgraded essays help students and their advisors devise meaningful, individualized academic programs. This is the most immediate application. Self-assessment essays are useful in dozens of other ways.

Dean of Co-Curricular Life Valdrie Walker's vision takes the self-assessment concept a step further. She wants to create a co-curricular "portfolio" that complements each student's academic transcript and essays. Melissa Henning '99 agrees with the value of such an effort.

"Portfolios will help students be even more deliberate about what they are getting out of their educations," says Melissa. "As it develops over four years, a portfolio might consist of your on-campus work experience and volunteer activities. Your résumé could be added along with letters from internship supervisors or visiting professors. Things like research or writing samples should be included. Instead of scrambling to assemble these items at the last minute, you'll be building them as you go along. You'll



I am able to examine information and articulate on a conceptual and detailed level what is going on; this I learned at Sweet Briar. Although the type of information that I am analyzing is new to me, knowing "how to" allows me to make the transition.

—Kindie Samuel '98

*Sweet Briar taught me
how to learn. In my job,
you have to be able to
think on your feet.
Things change so quick-
ly that you are con-
stantly learning new
things.*

—Katie Clarkson '97

Joe Monk conducts a first-year seminar



leave Sweet Briar with a tangible product you can take away with you. You'll not only leave with a degree, but a portfolio of achievements."

First-Year Seminars, Fall 1998

Don't be fooled by titles like "The Making of a Musical," "Must See TV?" or "Alien Worlds." The 16 first-year seminars offered this fall were created to function as boot camps for the mind, introducing first-year students to the rigors of the new General Education Program.

First-year seminars focus on the skills and intellectual practices promoted at Sweet Briar, leaving the faculty free to select themes and develop content that does not apply toward the completion of a major. Unlike introductory-level courses, these seminars do not have to cover a prescribed range of

First-Year Seminars '98:

Alien Worlds: Fantasy and Reality
The Art and Science of Dealing with Data
Contemporary Environmental Issues: Human Dialogue in the Natural World
The Day the Universe Changed
Decision Making: Its Logic and Practice in Everyday Life
Diva: The Portrayal of Women in Opera (Seductress, Tragic Heroine, Faithful Wife and Lover)
Global Problems and Politics
Literature, Culture and Personal Identity
Love Story
The Making of a Musical: From a Novel to the Musical Theatre Stage
Must See TV? The Psychological Effects of Watching Television
Paris Through the Ages
Passing the Baton: Historical and Cultural Foundations of Women's Sport
Renaissance Italy
Today's Ethical Challenges
Witchcraft, Magic and Religion in Early Modern Europe and America

material. Professors can concentrate on their students' speaking, writing, or quantitative skills—all centered around an engaging topic. Though seminars share a common liberal arts perspective, no two are alike.

New Computer Science Major, 1998-99

Speaking with Bob Chase, professor of mathematical sciences, it is no surprise to hear that Sweet Briar has an "old girls" network established in the relatively young computer science industry. After all, SBC is the "most wired" women's college in the United States. What is amazing, however, is that the College did not even offer a computer science major until this fall.

"We've had a *mathematics* computer science major in place for a number of years," explains Professor Chase. "These majors have had no difficulty landing good jobs with

starting salaries that continue to shock me! Quite a few are in positions now where they can assist with internships and job opportunities. They're very generous about it, e-mailing the department to let us know that they're ready and willing to help. Meantime, we've been looking forward to building on this success with a new, separate computer science major."

"The demand for information-technology workers is incredible. Still, we did not want to respond to either student requests or industry needs by offering just any computer science major. We wanted to ensure that our graduates would continue to stand out."

Preparing for the new major, Sweet Briar's department of mathematical sciences redesigned its entire computer science curriculum to emphasize "real world" practices. The task also involved faculty recruitment and retraining. "We now have the breadth of courses and the faculty expertise to

New and Revised Computer Science Offerings, 1998

(Revised) C++ Programming: An introduction to computer science and object-oriented programming in C++. Topics include data types through arrays, and functions. Structured programming, object-oriented design, and the testing of programs stressed.

(New) Applications Development: A team-oriented software engineering-based approach to the design and maintenance of large practical software projects using a commercial development environment emphasizing component reuse, revision control, and test case development.

(New) Java Programming: Object-oriented programming methods for platform-independent applications development and World Wide Web (WWW) applet development using the Java programming language.

(Revised) Software Methods: Advanced programming techniques including object-oriented design and programming, recursion, searching and sorting, algorithm development, and structured programming.

(New) Digital Logic: An examination of the underlying computer hardware including gates, combinational circuits and arithmetic and logic circuits, and clock sequential circuits implementing registers, memory, addressing schemes, and control logic.

(New) Algorithm Analysis: Rigorous analysis of algorithms for searching and sorting, use of data structures such as hash tables and binary search trees and techniques such as dynamic programming and greedy algorithms. Emphasis is on asymptotic time and space complexity—best and worst case as well as amortized analysis.

(New) Operating Systems: The software systems which manage computer hardware. Topics include processes, inter-process communication, deadlock, memory management, swapping, paging, virtual memory, input/output management, file systems, protection, security, distributed and multiprocessor machines.

(New) Topics in Computer Science: Content varies yearly. Examples include: Using the UNIX operating system; UNIX internals; real-time audio and video systems; communications networks, programming languages.

support a pure computer science major," says Chase. "This is what our students wanted and the response has been overwhelmingly favorable. We have more majors now than ever before."

Like all other Sweet Briar students, computer science majors benefit from small classes, access to faculty, independent work, and hands-on research. But the working relationships these majors form with professors may prove to be more critical in the short term. After all, who do the

computer experts call when they need help?

"Yes," Professor Chase admits, "I've answered more than one panic call. But that's standard. No matter how well prepared you are, first jobs are always a little frightening. I've had graduates tossed—bang!—into the middle of huge corporate networks. I think just knowing that they could call made a difference. Sometimes you just need someone else to confirm what you already know. Then, you're fine."

DEDICATION OF BYRD'S NEST OCTOBER 3, 1997

An additional celebratory event on Founders' Day 1997 was the dedication of the Campus School's new playground, in loving memory of Byrd Stone '56, honoring *her* dedication to generations of Campus School and Sweet Briar College students. The complete renovation of the play area and the new equipment were made possible through the gifts of Byrd's classmates, past and present students and their families, and friends. The classes of 1956 and 1996 were preeminent in making this dream come true.



1999 Reunion Dedication: 1949's *Giving Us Wings*

In the midst of change, one thing never changes: the generous nature of Sweet Briar alumnae. Immediately after Reunion Convocation, a very special gift from the 50th Reunion Class was dedicated.

A beautiful bronze sculpture entitled *Giving Us Wings* now stands in a new courtyard enclosed by Dew Dormitory. It was created by artist/sculptor Ann Henderson Bannard '49, 1991 Distinguished Alumna Award recipient.

Giving Us Wings, symbolizing "two hands touching in a nurturing way and ending in a soaring wing" was sculpted in Ann's Tucson studio and cast in bronze at the Desert Crucible Foundry there. Where to place the sculpture was of utmost importance; the spot chosen is peaceful, away from traffic areas. The view from its setting is ideal: in direct sight is Monument Hill. The brick courtyard, with a named brick for each class member, offers a tranquil place for quiet contemplation or welcomes small gatherings.

"I hope that our class gift of this space, a beginning-to-be beautiful courtyard to enclose the sculpture, will become a place for fun and meditation," Ann Bannard said. "My dream is that *Giving Us Wings*

will be encouragement and inspiration to the women in generations after us who will stand where we are standing and know that, thanks to Sweet Briar, no dreams are out of reach, and leave this campus and fly."

Giving Us Wings was commissioned by Catherine "Bunny" Barnett Brown '49 and husband Walter, former Board of Directors chairman and honorary class member. "I see the sculpture as also representing Sweet Briar friendships reaching out through the years," Bunny said.



Giving Us Wings
Photo by Yorke Bonnard



**Nancy Hall Green '64
Pledges \$5 Million For
New Campus Center**

lion as the kickoff gift to build a new student center. Her pledge was announced at the February 1999 Board meeting.

Nancy Hall Green of Atlanta, a member of the College's Board of Directors and a longtime volunteer leader, has pledged \$5 mil-

While SBC's recently unveiled master plan envisions many changes over the next 10-20 years, the proposed campus center is truly its centerpiece—its linchpin—and Nancy's gift



heralds the most auspicious beginning toward realizing plans for this \$10 million facility.

The planning for Nancy's gift started more than a year ago when she and President Muhlenfeld were talking about

purpose. A campus center that incorporates the Book Shop, the Post Office, several dining options, as well as offices of student organizations will facilitate the integration of curricular and co-curricular life, increase



the College's strategic plan. "I asked Betsy what her priority was and why. Without hesitation, she said her priority was the campus center, that it was central to her goal that Sweet Briar be a *student-centered* institution where co-curricular programs are fully integrated into the life of the College and where faculty and students have multiple opportunities to interact outside the classroom.

"When I was a student," Nancy recalled, "the Boxwood Inn was the place where faculty and students met for coffee. Today it's the Book Shop, but it is totally inadequate for this

the opportunities for students to interact with faculty and with each other, and generally greatly enhance the quality of life for the entire community."

A huge 2'x3' thank-you card filled with signatures of hundreds of SBC community members, with sentiments ranging from the simple "thank you" to "Nancy, you ROCK!" was presented by the students. Nancy said, "The smiles on their faces are all the thanks I will ever need."

MAYA ANGELOU AT SWEET BRIAR: AN EXPERIENCE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

Excerpted from the Spring 1999 Alumnae Magazine

Article by Katie Wright '00, student intern for the magazine

When Maya Angelou walked onstage November 4, 1998, to greet an overflow crowd in Babcock, the auditorium swelled with her presence. Just to be in the "live" audience was a lucky circumstance: community tickets for the event were gone within the hour that they were available. Those without tickets watched on closed-circuit TV. Two *really* lucky students won the opportunity to meet and introduce her. (Twenty applied for the honor.) Kristine Bria '99, Stratford, CT and Jennifer Crutcher '99, Palestine, TX were selected by the Office of Co-Curricular Life.

To prepare the campus community, special events were held for almost a month prior to her arrival. Speaking of all these events, President Muhlenfeld said: "This is a wonderful example of the way that a single lecture or speaker can impact the classroom and activities outside the classroom, encouraging students to make connections they might not otherwise make."

Our month of preparation taught us about her heritage, her work, her values. We began to know and to appreciate her as a remarkable person who represents not only her own African-American culture, but speaks for all women striving to succeed in a man's world. She left her imprint as she urged us to "reach for the rainbow."

To be in her presence was not only inspirational but an experience never to be forgotten.



Photo by David Abrams

L-r: Kristine Bria; Maya Angelou; Jennifer Crutcher



SBC PROFESSORS LEARN INS AND OUTS OF "TEACHING ON THE NET"

More than 50 Sweet Briar faculty members took part in a series of three workshops in June to learn how to use World Wide Web sites in their classes. Professors learned how to post syllabi on the web, administer interactive tests, and use network-based communication for discussions beyond the classroom walls. The professors developed more than 60 web-based classes for use in the fall.

Professor Aileen Laing '57
enlightens students at an exhibit
of English Sporting Art



Sweet Briar College Named a Best College Value by both Money Magazine and U.S. News & World Report, 1997-1998

Reprinted from Summer/Fall
1997 Alumnae Magazine

National college ranking services and guidebooks are once again discovering what hundreds of young women already know—that Sweet Briar College is not only one of the best higher education choices for women today, but also one of the best values. Sweet Briar placed high in college rankings released by *U. S. News & World Report* and *Money* magazines, as well as receiving praise from satisfied students in *The Princeton Review's - The Best 311 Colleges* guidebook.

In the annual *U.S. News* rankings, Sweet Briar was placed among the top 82 colleges in the "national liberal arts" category. The rankings are based on a composite of statistics which reflect a college's academic reputation, retention and graduation rates, acceptance selectivity, academic profiles of admitted first-year students, and financial stability. Sweet Briar was also named a best value by *U.S. News*, placing 31st among all national liberal arts colleges.

For the third year in a row, Sweet Briar has been named one

of the best 150 college buys in the nation, according to *Money* magazine's annual ranking of America's top values in four-year undergraduate schools. The ranking, based on academic quality in relation to cost, appears in the 1997 edition of the personal-finance monthly's special *Money Guide: The Best College Buys Now*. Sweet Briar also was ranked as the #2 best buy among the four women's colleges which made the top 150, and was the only Virginia women's college to do so.

For the fifth year in a row, students at Sweet Briar College have ranked their professors and school among the best of the 311 top colleges in the country, according to a survey of 56,000 students conducted by the Princeton Review test-coaching firm for the 1998 edition of its book, *The Best 311 Colleges*.

As in the 1993 through 1997 editions of the book, Sweet Briar scored high in areas related to quality of life and the personal attention paid students by the faculty and administrators, a testament to the academic quality and strong feeling of community on campus.

Students rated Sweet Briar among the top 20 colleges in each of the following categories:

Quality of Life: "Great food" (#6); "Beautiful Campus" (#8); "Happy students" (#13); "Dorms like palaces" (#10).

Academics: "Professors

make themselves accessible" (#8).

Administration: "School runs like butter" (#14).

School by type: "Stone cold sober schools (based on a combination of alcohol and drug use, and hours per day studying)" (#18)

Sweet Briar students also said about the College: "As one professor put it: 'For 30 grand a year, I work for you. Use me. Ask questions. Turn in rough drafts and I'll help you with them. Schedule meetings with me. I'm here for you.'"

"Office hours are all the time" and "innovative" professors "make tedious subjects seem fun and interesting."

"The sciences are full of opportunities to work with high-tech instrumentation."

"Sweet Briar women are really ambitious about their futures."



October 1993: Dedications and New Additions

The new **Samuel E. Upchurch Wing of the Guion Science Center**, the gift of Ann Samford Upchurch '48 and her children, Drs. Virginia Upchurch Collier '72, Katherine Upchurch Takvorian '72, and Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr., was dedicated on Founders' Day, October 1, 1993.



Top: The Samuel E. Upchurch Wing, Guion Science Center
Ann Upchurch's grandchildren unveil portrait of Samuel E. Upchurch

Photos by David Abrams

The new **Boxwood Alumnae House** was dedicated during Alumnae Council October 2, 1993. At last! The Alumnae Association and the alumnae office staff have a campus home in the beautifully restored Boxwood, known to generations of alumnae, first as Boxwood Inn, then as Boxwood dormitory. The renovation was the anonymous gift of a devoted alumna. The **Sweet Briar Museum** moved to quarters in the lower level of Boxwood Alumnae House.



The Museum's 1840s period parlor showcases Daisy's harp, original Sweet Briar plantation furniture, and a figure clothed in one of Miss Indie's early dresses



Boxwood's lounge where a warm welcome awaits alumnae

Photos by David Abrams



Vixen (mascot) watches as Mollie Nelson cuts the ribbon at dedication of new exercise equipment for Fitness Center

Mollie Johnson Nelson '64: **Survival Of The Fittest**

Mollie Johnson Nelson of Lookout Mountain, TN, a member of the College's Board of Directors, heard loud and clear from students involved in the strategic planning effort in 1998 that Sweet Briar needs more fitness equipment and facilities.

"In the course of discussing what would make Sweet Briar more attractive and competitive with other schools," says Mollie, "students raised the need for exercise equipment. It was something they wanted right here and now. And I could do it. So I did."

In the spring of 1999, she made an outright gift that lets students know how well she heard them: \$225,000, of which \$30,000 was directed toward the purchase and maintenance of seven new exercise stations for the College Fitness Center. Her gift directly addresses SBC's master plan by focusing on the athletic initiative, one of the cornerstones of the plan.

Mollie also tied her gift further to students through the Senior Pledge Campaign, which seeks to raise \$12,500 in pledges from the Class of '99. Half of the Senior Campaign money goes to the Annual Fund; the other half will be used to establish an endowment for the upkeep, maintenance, and eventual replacement of the fitness equipment. Mollie promised to match the seniors' donations up to \$25,000.

"My generation did not participate in fitness per se. We had exercises and athletics, but not with the level of training that's required today. The current generation has a much greater, informed interest in health and fitness. They also come to Sweet Briar with more of a background in organized sports and expectations to continue that interest here. I think Title IX had a lot to do with that and all I can say is: More power to Title IX!"

Visions Realized and Visions Yet to Come

2000

**Family Foundation's
\$5 Million Grant
Celebrates Four
Generations**

Sweet Briar College received a \$5 million grant from the Texas Perkins-Prothro Foundation for the construction of the new Campus Center, part of the College's master plan. It is the second largest grant to any institution from the foundation, "made from the good memories and love" the members of the family foundation have for Sweet Briar, said foundation president Joe Prothro.

Photo by David Abrams



Hundreds of Sweet Briar Family members around the world watched via an internet webcast as (l-r) Sara Finnegan Lycett '61 Board chairmon, Holly Prothro Philbin '95, and President Muhlenfeld broke ground on the new Student Commons in April 2000.

This is the most wonderful Christmas present Sweet Briar could ask for," President Muhlenfeld said when the letter announcing the grant arrived. "To say we are grateful does not begin to convey our feelings. We believe that this new project will have a transformational effect on the College, exemplifying all that is distinctive about Sweet Briar as we move confidently into the future. To have such support from a family that has nurtured this college for so many decades of the 20th century is a particularly impressive and symbolic vote of confidence in the Sweet Briar of the 21st century."

The Perkins and Prothro families' "good memories and love" began 60 years ago and has spanned four generations of men and women of the Texas family. Elizabeth Perkins Prothro '39 (Mrs. Charles N. Prothro), her daughter Kathryn ("Kay") Prothro Yeager '61, Kay's daughters, Kathryn Elizabeth Yeager Edwards '84 and Linda Yeager Beltchev '85, and Mark Prothro's daughter, Charlotte Holland ("Holly") Prothro Philbin '95, span the generations of alumnae.

Charles N. Prothro is a former chairman of the Board of Directors; son Mark currently serves on the Board.

Since Nancy Hall Green '64 and her husband, Holcombe, made the first \$5 million pledge

in 1999, response from the Sweet Briar community had been generous. The grant from the Perkins-Prothro Foundation meant that we have pledges sufficient to proceed with plans for construction.

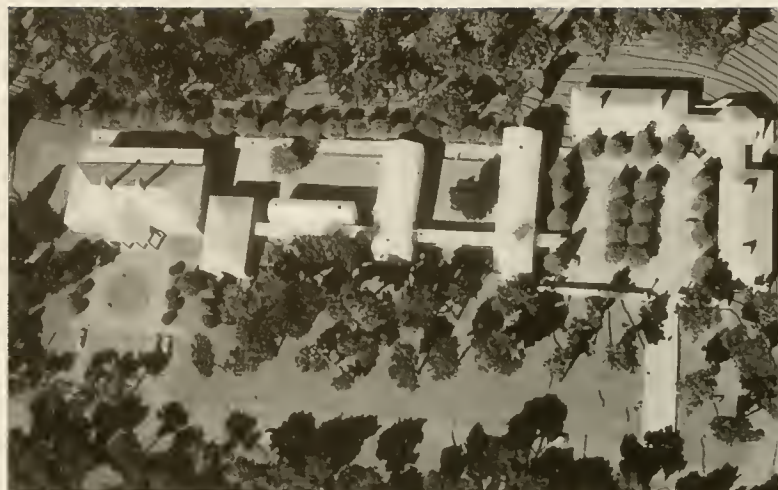
During the April 2000 Board meetings on campus, a dream came true: a Groundbreaking Ceremony took place for the new center.



Gordon Beemer and President Muhlenfeld at the Dedication

New Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center Dedicated October 26, 2000

The Elston-Beemer Trust, the bequest of Florence Woelfel Elston-Beemer '21, which provided funds for the original construction of the Elston Inn and a second wing, more recently provided funds to real-



Model of the Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center complex

ize Florence and Gordon Beemer's dream.

This multimillion-dollar gift was given specifically to enable us to create a 38-room inn and a state-of-the-art conference facility. The Inn and Conference Center complex provides the College with much-needed space for events, and allows us to host our own academic meetings and conferences, as well as non-college events.

The facility will boost Sweet Briar's academic reputation and revenues—both important goals of the College. We are thrilled by this evidence of far-thinking commitment to the College through Florence's estate and Gordon's good stewardship.

The addition to the Inn includes a new reception area, 24-hour desk, a visitor information center, a lounge with fireplace, an entry courtyard, and a reception courtyard for open-air events.

The Wailes Center, adjacent to the Inn, has been converted into a full-service Conference Center. Meeting rooms, equipped with a range of audio-visual and display equipment, direct internet access, and cable

TV hookups, accommodate 12-70 people. The building has a reception area with outdoor spaces, a formal dining room, and a breakfast room serving both the Inn and Conference Center.

During the October 2000 Board of Directors meetings, Gordon and many of his friends and family were here for the festive excitement of the dedication of the Inn and Conference Center—truly a landmark event for Sweet Briar College.

The mission of the Center for Civic Renewal is to foster the habits of effective citizen engagement by promoting understanding of American civic society, especially democratic procedure, the rule of law, and civil rights/obligations under our Constitution.

"Technocracy in America 2000" Symposium and The Center for Civic Renewal

"Technocracy in America 2000: The Media's Impact on Presidential Politics" was the inaugural event for Sweet Briar's Center for Civic Renewal, October 13-14, 2000. Established in 1999, the Center is the College's response to rampant civic disengagement in the United States. Whether measured by low voter turnout, high levels of distrust in government, deficiencies in civic education, general apathy toward public affairs, or

increasing social isolation, this alarming trend threatens the ability of American constitutional democracy to function effectively in the 21st century.

The mission of the Center for Civic Renewal is to foster the habits of effective citizen engagement by promoting understanding of American civic society, especially democratic procedure, the rule of law, and civil rights/obligations under our Constitution.

"Technocracy" signifies the intersection of technology and democracy. "Technocracy in America 2000: The Media's Impact on Presidential Politics" explored the influence of technology on presidential politics from the televised Nixon/Kennedy debates in 1960, to Internet campaigning and fundraising in 2000. How have media revolutions changed how we vote, how we learn about candidates and their platforms, and how we perceive political parties and their nominees?

Just three weeks before Election Day 2000, Sweet Briar hosted an impressive array of speakers who have observed and made media history in political campaigns and who are now contributing to the landmark changes in American democracy and politics.

Among the ten noted speakers and panelists were Ann

Compton, former ABC White House correspondent, currently on ABCNEWS.com; Lee Cullum '60, columnist, *Dallas Morning News* and frequent participant on PBS's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer"; John D. Evans, chair and CEO of Evans Telecommunications Co. and the John D. Evans Foundation and one of the co-founders of C-SPAN in 1977; and Daniel Schorr, who spent 23 years with CBS, assisted in launching CNN and since 1985 has been the senior news analyst for National Public Radio.

Andrea Mitchell, NBC political correspondent, host of MSNBC's "The Mitchell Report," and NBC chief foreign affairs correspondent, gave the keynote address.

Moderators were Dr. Stephen Bragaw, SBC assistant professor of government and director of the Law and Society Program, and Dr. Barbara Perry, SBC's Carter Glass Professor of Government and director of the Center for Civic Renewal.



Between sessions, l-r: Andrea Mitchell, Sandra Taylor '74, Daniel Schorr

Most Wired

Sweet Briar Ranked the "Most Wired" Women's College in America on Annual Technology Survey

According to *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine's "America's 100 Most Wired Colleges," Sweet Briar College is No. 1 among women's colleges in America.

The 2000 edition of the annual survey also named the college as the sixth most wired baccalaureate college in the nation.

"As we prepare women to be active leaders in the 21st century, our commitment to technology is a high priority," said President Muhlenfeld. "We are pleased to be recognized as one of the most wired campuses in America."

Criteria for the rankings were separated into four general categories: the administrative services provided by the college to the students; support services for the students; access to the Internet, to new equipment, and within the classrooms and dorms; and general resources available to the students.

The magazine considered 40 factors in determining the rankings.

Sweet Briar scored high in many of the categories. One hundred percent of the classrooms, dorm rooms and faculty offices are wired to the campus's fiber-optic network.

Also, the College gives students unlimited storage space on the web and on the network. Students with laptops can plug into the network anywhere on campus, even in the library stacks.

Sweet Briar faculty have been pioneers in the use of Internet and other technologies in the classroom, utilizing Web sites as textbooks, e-mail discussion groups, remote webcasts and electronic submission of papers.

This is Sweet Briar's third year in the top 100.

New National Survey Shows Sweet Briar College Scores High in Providing a Highly Effective Education

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) named Sweet Briar College as one of only four colleges and universities scoring in the top 20 percent on all five national benchmarks of student engagement (November 13, 2000).

The NSSE is designed to focus on key indicators of educational effectiveness. It has created national benchmarks for: level of academic challenge; active and collaborative learning; student interaction with faculty members; enriching educational experiences; and supportive campus environment. All of these factors have been shown by research to enhance student learning.

"This study highlights what we are most proud of at Sweet Briar—our commitment to actual student learning," said President Muhlenfeld. "The keys are high expectations, insistence on quality, and most important, real interaction between students, faculty, and staff. The result is a college where confident women invest themselves in learning."

Among the 276 colleges and universities participating in the survey, Sweet Briar had the highest score for student inter-

action with faculty during the senior year.

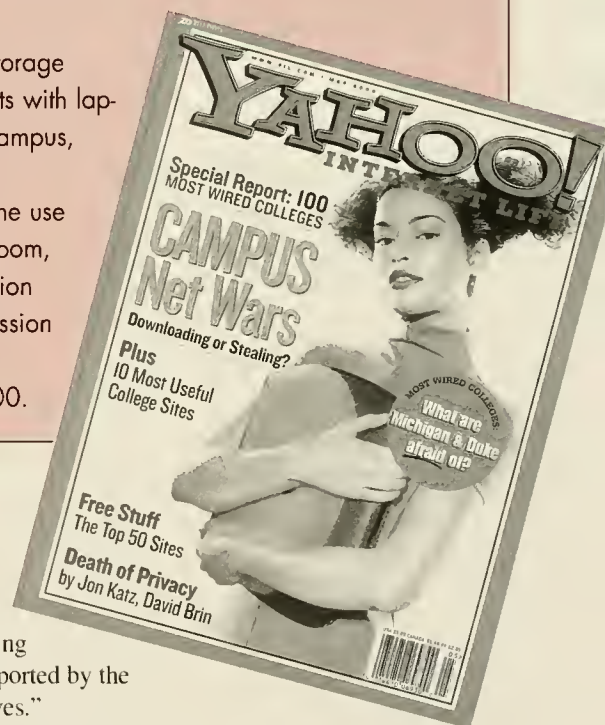
The NSSE created a way to estimate collegiate quality that focuses on actual student learning. This is a different approach from that used by most college ranking guides, like *U.S. News and World Report*.

"For years, judgments about the quality of colleges and universities have turned on evidence about the resources institutions have assembled and the reputations those institutions enjoy," said Russell Edgerton, director of the Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning. "The NSSE 2000 Report reveals

whether and how institutions are actually using their resources to provide deep, meaningful learning experiences as reported by the students themselves."

Sweet Briar, recently ranked as the "most wired women's college in America" by *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine, opted for students to complete the survey in its Web-based format and had a 61 percent response rate.

The other colleges identified as highly engaging include Beloit, Centre, and Elon.





**Michela English '71:
Chairman of the Board,
Sweet Briar College
President, Discovery
Consumer Products,
Discovery
Communications, Inc.**

Michela English is the second woman and second alumna to be elected chairman of the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors, succeeding Sara Finnegan Lycett '61 on July 1, 2000. She began service on the Board in 1994.

Head of the judicial board and an international affairs major at SBC, she earned a Master of Public and Private Management from Yale University's School of Management in 1979.

As president, Discovery Consumer Products, Michela heads DCI's fast-growing consumer and educational businesses, which offer a broad array of products to consumers worldwide, through Discovery-branded retail stores, online shopping, mail-order catalogs, educational

institutions and strategic third-party retail partners.

Since March 1996, she has held the positions of president, Discovery Enterprises Worldwide, and president, Discovery.com, launching and rapidly developing new initiatives that build upon and enhance Discovery's television brands and consumer relationships. She has overseen the development of: Discovery's highly trafficked, award-winning web sites, featuring deep content and services related to Discovery's television networks; a nationwide chain of 160 retail stores including Discovery Channel Stores and The Nature Company; a broad selection of consumer products, including videos, books, and a growing assortment of items for the whole family, distributed globally; and a K-12 education business that brings high-quality supplementary media in multiple formats (videos, CD-ROMs, print and online) to classroom teachers and their students.

Michela previously served as senior vice president of the National Geographic Society, where she was responsible for marketing, book publishing, *Traveler* magazine, *World* magazine for children, educational media and international publishing. She spearheaded the 1995 launch of *National Geographic* magazine in the

Japanese language, the publication's first-ever non-English edition. She was a member of the Society's Board of Trustees and Education Foundation Board.

Prior to her tenure at the National Geographic Society, Michela served as a consultant for such clients as Marriott Corporation and MCI. She had also been vice president, corporate planning and business development for Marriott Corporation. Prior to Marriott, she worked as senior engagement manager for the international consulting firm McKinsey & Company, helping top management in major media and diversified companies design and implement strategic plans, improvements in operations, and organizational changes.

Michela is active within the volunteer, nonprofit, and corporate communities. She has served as director of Riggs National Corporation, Washington, DC; director of Windsor Pet Care, Inc., Hasbrouk Heights, NJ; trustee of the Supreme Court Historical Society; member of the Yale School of Management Advisory Board; and director of the Potomac KnowledgeWay. Currently she is a director of the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education and the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Eleven Years and Two Presidents Later, SBC's "Interim" Dean Prepares to Return to the Classroom

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

In 1989, Dr. George Lenz, Sweet Briar's Whitney Guion Professor of Physics, agreed to serve as a one-year interim dean of the College, smoothing the transition between retiring president Nenah E. Fry and her successor Dr. Barbara Ann Hill. In 2002, after a long overdue sabbatical, he will return full-time to the classroom, where he intends to stay put for the rest of his career.

Reviewing the tremendous strides the College made during the last decade of the 20th century, it is easy to see how George's "interim" position lasted eleven years. The way he describes it, SBC had "too many irons in the fire" when he officially entered the Dean's Office in 1990. In the midst of a capital campaign and a strategic planning process, with a Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) reaccreditation pending, he felt compelled to remain on board through President Hill's tenure. "Then," laughs George, "President Muhlenfeld arrived and practically the same thing happened. The College needed someone to bridge the transition."

Dean Lenz did much more



than "bridge transitions" during a decade of dynamic decision making and bold improvements. Under his leadership, Sweet Briar dramatically enhanced the quality of its science programs and developed a vigorous Honors Program. The College's strategic planning efforts resulted in the strengthening of traditional offerings and the implementation of new initiatives like The Center for Civic Renewal and the Environmental Program. The outstanding talent and qualifications of the faculty hired during Dean Lenz's tenure ensure that the College's classrooms will remain challenging and responsive well into the 21st century.

"We've made some very positive changes in recent years," says George. "If I had to tick them off, I'd say the science initiative did a great deal for the College, especially in

terms of attracting exceptionally bright women to Sweet Briar. Even if they decide to switch their academic focus later on, they end up making darn good classicists, linguists, writers—or whatever direction they choose.

"The technology initiative," continues George, "has given us the distinction of being the 'most wired' women's college in the country and sixth overall on a list that includes some hefty competition. And it's not only the infrastructure but how we're using technology in the classroom that produces such high marks. We got in front of the issue early on. Now other institutions are spending a lot more just trying to catch up to us."

"In addition to emphasizing skills and real world experiences, Sweet Briar's new General Education Program encourages students to be

"The technology initiative has given us the distinction of being the 'most wired' women's college in the country and sixth overall on a list that includes some hefty competition. And it's not only the infrastructure but how we're using technology in the classroom that produces such high marks. We got in front of the issue early on. Now other institutions are spending a lot more just trying to catch up to us."

—George Lenz

Sweet Briar College and the Peace Corps

A total of 37 SBC alumnae in the 39 years since 1961 have served overseas in 30 countries as Peace Corps Volunteers.

Adair Collins, Class of 1998 (Richmond, VA), an English major, history minor, is currently volunteering in Bulgaria.



Adair Collins

reflective about their educations, which is really 'cutting edge.' The Honors Program provides an 'escape hatch,' giving students the opportunity to pursue their interests in depth and offering more of a graduate school type of research experience.

"These are a few of the changes that stand out when you're looking toward the future, thinking: What are young women going to need

when they leave this place? The community had a lot of ideas that came to closure in the nineties. The College is well thought of in national circles. Last fall, the National Survey of Student Engagement funded by the Pew Charitable Trust ranked us among the four top colleges in the country for good educational practices."

As another measure of Sweet Briar's success, Dean Lenz offers a glimpse at class enrollments. "We keep adding sections in English and creative writing," he reports. "Government enrollments are up. Psychology is up. These are some of the things that help to indicate the quality of the institution. Professor Jim Kirkwood has 17 students in advanced calculus. Historically, eight to nine percent of our students have a math-related major. That's phenomenal. That's three times the national average, so you know we're doing a lot of things right. We're having terrific success getting our students out into good jobs and respected graduate programs."

Dean Lenz joined the faculty in 1971. For 19 years, he taught "across the undergraduate spectrum," covering physics, engineering, earth science, meteorology, and environmental science. In 1989, his colleagues convinced him to toss his name in the hat for interim dean, a choice he has never regretted.

"In 1989-1990, we were having an enrollment problem. Not a crisis—but it could have become serious. The Board, under the leadership of Walter Brown, elected to maintain standards while the administration worked to turn things around. It was a critical decision that took considerable courage. And it was the right decision. An extensive survey done later in the 1990s confirmed what we all know to be true, that nationally recognized academic quality and close interactions with faculty are among the top reasons young women chose Sweet Briar. Without these two important criteria, we might as well close our doors.

"I feel really good about where we are right now. I'd put our best up against the best anywhere. We're in a unique position to make what a physicist would call 'an impedance match to the future.' That is, tailoring our education to ensure that our students have the skills they need to succeed in the future.

"Everything I've seen suggests that facts are relatively worthless. It's quality of mind—the ability to solve a problem or research an issue—that's important. Sweet Briar develops those highly transferable skills. And it's all to the good."



A Resource That Cannot Be Replaced: Chaplain Lehman Retires in 2001

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Sweet Briar's centennial year marks the retirement of the College's beloved and admired chaplain, Susan C. Lehman.

From Susan's perspective, with so many of the causes she championed now firmly rooted in SBC's curricular and co-curricular programming, the end of the 2000-2001 academic year seems like an ideal time to step down. Valdrie Walker, dean of co-curricular life, argues otherwise, saying, "Every day I ask Susan what I can do to change her mind, to put off retiring for just one more year. She has a gift for helping people—students, faculty, and staff—live and work comfortably together in a close environment. I wish I could think of some way to keep her here."

The challenges, goals, and successes that defined Susan's

Susan Lehman



16-year chaplaincy highlight her marvelous ability to serve the community on all fronts.

For example, long before the Honors Program began featuring a whole series of extracurricular activities, Susan was hosting faculty-student presentations, lectures, and discussions in her home.

Until the College appointed a director of international studies, it was Susan who uncovered and tended to the special needs of Sweet Briar's international students, as well as encouraging students to travel and welcoming seniors returning from Junior Year Abroad programs.

Full-time mental health counseling became a reality after Susan spotted the need for more services.

Before the self-assessment component of the College's new General Education Program required students to reflect on their educational goals and personal development, Susan guided seniors through a series of meetings and exercises aimed at reaching a similar goal.

"Susan," says Melissa Henning '99, "identified the need for self-evaluation and was doing it on her own prior to the General Education Program. My class wrote in journals and participated in thoughtful discussions, looking back over our College experiences and talking

about how much we'd learned in four years. She taught me the value of taking stock before moving on to something new. And it's something I expect to do again and again as I change jobs or make other important transitions."

Susan was in her third and final year at the University of Chicago Divinity School when the late Sweet Briar Chaplain Myron "Mike" Bloy interviewed her for a sabbatical replacement position. Not long afterward, in January 1985, Chaplain Bloy suddenly died, seated in an armchair reading a book, while waiting to deliver a paper at a conference in Washington, D.C.

"In the Episcopal church," says Susan, "an evaluation of the 20th century would place Mike Bloy in a central, leadership role in college chaplaincy. He started a very important journal called *Religion and Intellectual Life* right here in the chaplain's house. He and I could not have been more different and we knew that as we talked. We went to dinner and had a wonderful time.

"Mike was a scholar. I'm a

very 'hands-on' person. I understand my work as a companion. It is my job to figure out how I can make myself available to 570 students, plus alumnae, faculty, and staff. That's how I've given shape to my office."

Susan's "hands-on" style has included buying assorted yard-sale china, which she allows people to therapeutically smash in her basement.

"The plate throwing hasn't happened as often as is rumored," explains Dr. Alix Ingber, professor of Spanish and associate dean of academic affairs. "It's an occasional, controlled event. Susan gets people to talk, to discover who they're angry at and why.

"She has a remarkable understanding of what students need in the most immediate sense," continues Alix. "She cooks for people, drives them to the doctor, brings them together over books and current events. She has made a major contribution to intellectual life on campus and inspired students to become involved in community service. She is a resource that cannot be replaced."

"Susan identified the need for self-evaluation and was doing it on her own prior to the General Education Program. My class wrote in journals and participated in thoughtful discussions, looking back over our College experiences and talking about how much we'd learned in four years. She taught me the value of taking stock before moving on to something new. And it's something I expect to do again and again as I change jobs or make other important transitions."

— Melissa Henning '99



Jennifer Crispen coaches the fencing team which placed second in Virginia in 2001.

Body, Mind, and Spirit: The '70s Revival of Athletics at SBC Lasts into the New Century

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Indiana Fletcher's vision of a "sound education" for young women included three classic components: body, mind, and spirit. However, throughout the 20th century, the role of physical education and athletics in women's education was the subject of considerable debate. Not until the passage of Title IX in 1972 were coed institutions forced to consider creating equal opportunities for women in sports. Even then, substantial changes would take decades to implement.

Sweet Briar's responses to shifting attitudes toward women's physical education and athletics have never consistently correlated with national trends. In the 1970s, the College was moving slightly in advance of the Title IX upturn. When President Harold B. Whiteman assumed office in 1971, the former Yale University Varsity football captain helped to bring competitive sports back into vogue.

Sweet Briar historian Ann Marshall Whitley '47 noticed

the difference immediately. Her daughter, Libby '75, a first-year student, phoned home to report that she had been out jogging with the president's wife, Deedie. Both Whitemans played tennis and were planning to build a paddle court behind Sweet Briar House. Ann could not believe what she was hearing. It was, she thought, the start of the revitalization of athletics at Sweet Briar. She was right.

The Whiteman years produced the Prothro Natatorium, four new tennis courts, a Parcourse Fitness Circuit, and a weight room. Volleyball, swimming, and soccer were added to SBC's offerings and intercollegiate competitions were increased. The Sweet Briar Outdoor Program (SWEOP) was created and the Outing Cabin was restored.

The cornerstone for the new swimming pool, the Prothro Natatorium, was set in 1976.

Peter V. Daniel, SBC vice president and treasurer, chaired the committee that oversaw its design and construction. It was a choice assignment for the former Dartmouth and University of Virginia champion diver.

"Other small schools in the area had swimming and diving programs," explains Peter. "And here was Sweet Briar, a very prestigious college, without a pool. The gymnasium was built to accommodate an extension; tabs on the west end indicated a future wing. When Harold Whiteman arrived, he gave the project a boost."

Bonnie Jackson Kestner, associate professor of physical education and athletics, arrived just after the Prothro Natatorium was completed in 1977. She asked Peter to coach the diving team while she organized the swimmers. It was a winning combination. "We began knocking off the competition," recalls Peter, "taking first and second at every meet. By 1980, senior art major Jill Steenhuis '80 was state regional diving champion."

Bonnie, who arrived fresh



from an assistant coaching position at Yale, knew that Sweet Briar had some serious catching up to do. "I challenged the team that first year," she remembers. "I said, what I've heard about Sweet Briar athletics is that students are reluctant to make a serious commitment to sports. We need to prove that things can change. The swim team responded by winning the state small-college championship in its first year.

"Those students made incredible sacrifices. There was no heat in the pool water that year. An air tunnel surrounding the pool was theoretically supposed to warm the water, saving the College the additional expense. Those dedicated swimmers swam double practices in January, in water temperatures ranging from the mid to low seventies."

Jennifer Crossland '86 made the nationals her freshman year, taking second place in the 50 yard breaststroke. "The swim team was fabulous," says Jennifer. "We won the ODAC championship every year before, during, and after the time I was at Sweet Briar. I think that's an amazing record for a school that does not offer athletic scholarships. Students had nothing to gain but the camaraderie and the thrill of competing."

Jennifer Crispen, associate professor of physical education

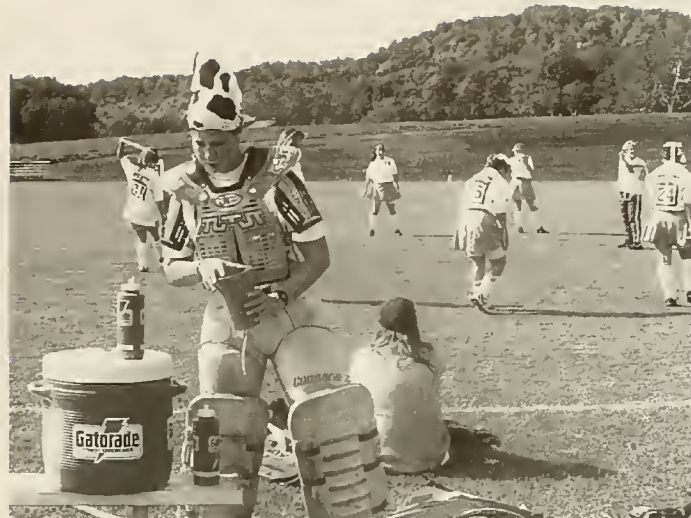
and athletics, is quick to point out that the initial plans for the Daisy Williams gymnasium included a pool. "My understanding is," she says, "that it was pared off of the building plan when the stock market crashed and pledges could not be fulfilled. In retrospect, it was for the best because we would have ended up with a bathtub in comparison to what we have now.

"Though it seems like Sweet Briar came late to swimming in the 1970s, we actually entered the sport sooner and with better facilities than other women's colleges in Virginia. At the same time, don't forget, our indoor riding center was better than anything in the country."

Jennifer started coaching field hockey and lacrosse in 1977, when SBC was still in a period she describes as the post-Vietnam "strike doldrums."

"We were still lingering in the protest era," recalls Jennifer. "Competitive sports were not popular; they had no status. The field hockey and lacrosse teams had no uniforms. There was nowhere to go but up."

SBC's field hockey and lacrosse teams went "up" in record time, producing single and two-sport All-Americans throughout the 1980s. Mary Blair Farinholt '86, a four-time All-American, was written up in *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" section. Katie



Hearn '85, a two-time All-American, still holds the Division III points-per-game record in lacrosse.

Paul Cronin, professor of physical education and athletics and director of the riding program, came to campus in 1967. "During that period," he says, "athletics were not 'in.' The focus was on physical education, the development of the individual—personal bests. There was not a lot of interest in having crackerjack varsity teams, though we still had winning seasons in some sports.

"A shift took place during the Whiteman administration," Paul continues. "More students wanted to compete and President Whiteman was very supportive. It was a good combination. But it involved a trade-off.

"In the late '60s and early '70s, the outdoor program was located in the physical education department. Our hiking, camping, and boating courses were high quality and very popular. The Outing Cabin and trails were heavily used. The

"We were still lingering in the protest era.

Competitive sports were not popular; they had

no status. The field

hockey and lacrosse

teams had no uniforms.

There was nowhere to go but up."

—Jennifer Crispen

At the start of the 21st century, Sweet Briar students seem to have closed the debate over the role of physical education and athletics in women's education. They want the option to excel at everything.



Professor Mark Magruder with students

Boat House was filled with canoes. However, we only had so much money to go around. When our students and the whole world began to demand more of women's athletics, we left behind the use of the land. Bob Barlow, then dean of student affairs, started SWEBOP in the late 1970s to help fill the gap created when the physical education department moved toward competitive sports and pressed to upgrade those offerings and facilities."

Kay Macdonald retired in 1983 after teaching and coaching for 35 years in the Physical Education Department. Her long view tends to smooth the surges and dips that can occur in any given decade. When she arrived in 1944, SBC's competitive spirit surprised her.

"In the north," says Kay, "competitive sports were not considered very ladylike. Women were not supposed to be interested in athletics. But the people in Virginia seemed to have other ideas. Sports on campus were going strong in the '40s and had been for some time. Harriet Rogers, the director, concentrated not only on highly skilled students, she

wanted a comprehensive program for non-athletes as well. Outdoor recreation was part of the picture. The Outing Cabin was here when I arrived and we had a lot of fun on the lake.

"You have to work at maintaining a balance," advises Kay. "No matter what a student's ability, she should have some way to stay fit. Some choose sports, others prefer noncompetitive activities."

The strides the College made during the Whiteman years began to slip in the late 1980s when coed colleges, under the Title IX mandate, began fully funding women's athletic programs, including athletic scholarships at the Division I and II levels. While this gave a tremendous boost to women's athletic programs at coed institutions, those at women's colleges fell seriously behind. At the same time, SBC's outdoor, fitness and health, and recreation programs were undergoing a substantial revival. By the year 2000, both trends converged in Sweet Briar's Athletics Initiative. Instead of concentrating on upgrading one area like team sports or personal fitness, the College intends to

build and equip a new field house. The addition on the south side of the Williams Gym will support the community's needs on all fronts.

Milly MacDonell was recently hired to oversee the integration of facilities and coordinate programming. Her title is telling of what the College is attempting to accomplish in the decade ahead. Milly is Chair of the Department of Physical Education, Recreation,

and Athletics, and Director of Athletics at Sweet Briar. "I'm excited about the opportunities that Sweet Briar College will be able to offer in the future," says Milly. "We're all looking forward to it. Whether we're talking about health and wellness or varsity sports, everyone in the department will be working toward the same goal. That is, making sure our students have the best we can possibly offer."

At the start of the 21st century, Sweet Briar students seem to have closed the debate over the role of physical education and athletics in women's education. They want the option to excel at everything.



Connections Beyond Memory: Dorothy Jones Sales H '94 Links Sweet Briar's past to the present

By Mary Molyneux Abrams '86

Dorothy Jones Sales' long-standing connection to the College is rivaled perhaps only by that of the founding family.

She was born on May 15, 1924 in the former slave cabin behind Sweet Briar House (now the Farm Tools Museum). Her father, Sterling Jones, helped fire the bricks for the original four Cram buildings. When Sweet Briar opened in 1906, he joined the staff and stayed with the College until his retirement in 1959. Dorothy's mother, Aurelia, raised six children while also working on campus. She retired with over 50 years of service. At one time, all eight Joneses were simultaneously employed by the College.

Four months after Dorothy was born, Sterling and Aurelia moved from the cabin into a house on Coolwell Road. From then on, Sterling—and eventually his wife and children as well—rose at 5:30 a.m. to begin the 3 1/2 mile walk to work.

Dorothy spent her summers at Sweet Briar and began working at the age of twelve. Her first summer job consisted of washing bottles in the lab for one of her favorite professors, Jane Belcher. By the age of fifteen she was working for Professor Belle Boone Beard, starting a relationship that would last for the next 32 years. She also helped Margaret Banister in the public relations

office, worked part-time in the laundry, and waited tables at the Boxwood Inn.

Early one winter morning, trailing behind their father on the walk to Sweet Briar, Dorothy and her older sister Louise encountered a ghost near the railroad tracks. The apparition, a neatly-dressed man, came straight toward them and disappeared. Dorothy qualifies the experience saying, "Daddy's generation told ghost stories. Sitting around at night, they told tales that scared me to death. They saw white horses—ghosts—crossing the roads. They heard and saw dead people moving around. I was afraid to go to bed when I was little. I believed the stories back then. I don't pay attention to them anymore. My children, the younger generation, don't believe."

Dorothy remembers helping her parents clean Academic (now Benedict). "My father kept on our heels," she laughs. "We all got it—the grandchildren, too. He was going to do his work. He'd say, 'Do right and right will follow you.'"

"Daddy was sweet and respectful," continues Dorothy. "Dr. Whiteman reminded me of my father. He carried himself the same way. He did just like Daddy; both men would bow before they spoke to someone—and they would always stop to greet people."

Sterling Jones died in 1959



Dorothy Sales and Amalia De Simone '94 at Boat House party in Dorothy's honor

at the age of 84. He was showing the symptoms of Alzheimer's and the extended Jones family, still clustered in Coolwell, supported each other, managing his care. One late afternoon, Sterling took a walk in the direction of a neighbor who was out cutting wood. "That was a Wednesday," says Dorothy. "It was the last we saw of him until they found him dead on Sunday morning. Hundreds of people were looking for him. It had snowed on Thursday and covered him up."

"I went to the campus. I went through every crack in Benedict trying to find him. When the snow melted and they found him, that's the way he was going. He was going to cross that railroad track and head down the hill. He was trying to find his way back to Sweet Briar. He loved Sweet Briar."

"Dorothy learned to do everything in the Book Shop," Helen recalled.

"Those were the days when duties were not so completely outlined. She was quick, tireless, and good-natured. If she had had the opportunities that women have today, she could have chosen any career."

—Helen McMahon

"Her connections go back beyond memory to a time before Sweet Briar College was founded...Now she is a real Rosam Quae Meruit Ferat."

—Ann Marshall Whitley '47



Dorothy Sales in front of the former slave cabin in which she was born.

By 1945, Dorothy was working as a full-time member of the buildings and grounds staff. Her dizzying daily schedule eventually covered the alumnae office, the Book Shop, Fletcher, and Babcock. During her lunch breaks, she would listen in on classes. Her favorite was anthropology. "That would have been my main choice," says Dorothy. "I wish I had taken advantage of more of it. But I started having children at an early age, at nineteen years old. I had three boys and they've grown to be good men."

Though Dorothy spent only one quarter of her workday in the Book Shop, it was ample time for the manager, Helen McMahon '23, to spot her potential. Dorothy began giving the Book Shop more of her time, training under Miss Winnie Walker. "I handled the books so much," recalls Dorothy, "putting them up all summer and cleaning them, that I knew where to find every one."

Dorothy began working full-time at the Book Shop in the early 1960s. "Her greatest contribution to Sweet Briar College came during those years," says Rebecca Page Baker '94, a co-worker and Turning Point alumna. "She could carry on conver-

sations with all professors, staff, and students, delighting them with her wisdom and warm sense of humor." Roscoe Fitts, manager of the Book Shop since 1973, notes that "Returning alumnae would always ask for Dorothy."

In 1988, the Virginia College Store Association named Dorothy "Employee of the Year." Helen McMahon, manager from 1947 to 1971, attended the award presentation. "Dorothy learned to do everything in the Book Shop," Helen recalled. "Those were the days when duties were not so completely outlined. She was quick, tireless, and good-natured. If she had had the opportunities that women have today, she could have chosen any career."

Dorothy retired in May 1994 at the age of 69, after 48 years of official service. Six months earlier, in a surprise celebration at the Boat House, she was made an honorary member of the Class of 1994. The seniors gave Dorothy a robe decorated with buttons and pink paint. The faculty also honored her. At a senior class meeting on March 28, Professor Gregory Armstrong presented Dorothy with a 1994 class ring. On May 3, during a recognition picnic, she was crowned May Queen. "I was partying all the time that

spring," says Dorothy. "It was big stuff. I couldn't calm down. It wore me out!"

Gardening helped Dorothy ease into retirement. While her husband George was alive, they enjoyed the freedom of traveling together. Her three sons live nearby, one just down the road from her home. She visits Sweet Briar often, attended the Class of 1994's 5th Reunion in 1999, and looks forward to the 10th in 2004.

On Dorothy's dining room table sits a scrapbook of photographs, citations, and letters from people like President Whiteman, Elizabeth Sprague, Gertrude Prior, Peter and Lydia Daniel, Ruby Cash, Ann Morrison Reams '42, Jocelyn Palmer Conners '62, Ieke Osinga '78, and Fay Powell Smith '82 to name just a few.

Toni Nelson, wife of the late Professor Lawrence Nelson, writes, "Students, faculty, and presidents have come and gone... but Dorothy has remained constant." Ann Marshall Whitley '47, curator of the Sweet Briar Museum, adds, "Her connections go back beyond memory to a time before Sweet Briar College was founded...Now she is a real Rosam Quae Meruit Ferat."

